

St. Benedict's Parish definitely would not be more of a drain on the Archdiocese than is St. Benedict's Mission; and certainly there are natural reasons too for hoping that the proposed change would encourage greater support on the part of the "stricte dicta" parishioners.

- (2) St. Benedict's would suffer the loss of some of its best members, trained and able to support the Church and its projects. That is to confess that St. Benedict's has fulfilled its function and period of preparation of the people to enter into Catholic parish life.
- (3) Certain "Whites" would find the change distasteful, and object to "Colored Catholics" in their parishes. With the real-estate lines drawn as tight as they are at present, very few parishes would directly be affected by this proposed change in St. Benedict's status. As to those few parishes that are concerned: experience proves that greater difficulties are anticipated than are met in actuality. Furthermore Colored Catholics are already present frequently for the Masses at Sacred Heart, St. John's, and St. Cecelia's; and their children are in both the Grade and the High Schools at these institutions. Those few (we have no reason for anticipating a greater number) who would object to the change, must do so only on the grounds that it is "untimely" - or else they really deny their fundamental Catholic principles; and these same few (we might as well face it) would still object as "untimely" if the move were proposed at the turn of the next century. With the Colored now to the North, East, and West, as well as to the South of Sacred Heart - how can we any longer tell them officially to march past Sacred Heart Church down to St. Benedict's, without facing the charge of segregation?

It might be in place here to offer some tentative proposal of parish lines for St. Benedict's. Here again we have another reason for the immediate change in St. Benedict's status - for the new (and to be integrated) Housing Projects along 30th Street enter into the picture; and there could be no criticism if St. Benedict's parish lines included these units before they were opened, so that the people would realize to what parish they would belong.

I have not made as yet any deep study of the matter. But on the following page I have sketched our suggestion as to the parish-division.

I wish to thank Your Grace for your great charity during my four years of working at St. Benedict's. Please accept my gratitude too for your consideration of this recommendation. I feel that we have come to the great turning-point, not only in the specific work of St. Benedict's but in our general handling of the Race Question. Without any fanaticism, but under the constant criticism of extremists on both sides, we have tried to follow a common-sense, balanced working out of this period of preparation. In my mind, we have done the right thing; and I honestly believe the right thing for the present and the future, is to take this further step. I assure Your Grace that these are my own ideas, arrived