

Colored, but also to the record of outstanding participation by the St. Benedict's unit in all the Metropolitan Council activities.

b.. Perhaps of an even greater efficiency in this period of preparation, has been the unsung work of the Omaha Deanery of the N.C.C.W. The affiliation of St. Benedict's P.T.A. has been no empty formality, on the part of either White or Colored; so that almost universal conclusion has been that "There is much less prejudice amongst the Catholic women than amongst the men".

c.. The three years of active and happy participation in the C.Y.O. activities has also made a great influence. I have been present for all these activities, to make certain both that our contestants acted like gentlemen and that they were treated like gentlemen - and there has never arisen any friction or manifestation of dislike.

d.. The Girls and Boys of our Scout Troops have participated in common projects with other units throughout the city without any discord.

e.. The members of the Christ Child Center here have attended for three years the Christ Child Summer Camp and the Day Camps, without any problem of race developing. Our Center too has shared in a number of activities with the other Christ Child Groups throughout Omaha.

f.. The Chicken Dinners served here have been the greatest example of harmonious race-relations in the entire city. There has never been any line drawn at the tables, never any trouble or complaint concerning the complete absence of any segregation although over 300 Colored and 700 Whites have been commonly served. And in our Talent Shows, Style Shows, Carnivals and other functions, the support has been universal; and the complete neglect of color-difference has been without unpleasant incident.

(4) The Proposed Change would be the Only Proof of the Non-Segregation Policy of the Church.

The present status of St. Benedict's is under constant and severe criticism by many people. And this criticism, according to modern thinking on racial minorities in our democracy, will only increase unless such a change is made. So far we have practiced only a negative segregation (i.e., the absence but non-exclusion of Whites); however, if continued in our present day despite the tremendous advances all about us, it would seem that the Church is practicing a positive segregation. The doctrine of the Mystical Body is well known amongst the Colored Leaders; but they protest that they see a vast difference in the holding of a separate Colored Catholic Church. In the present-day thinking on the Race Question as concerning the Colored, "separate" is almost the same as "segregated". Certainly we must realize that in practice the National Church is quite different from the Colored Church. The National Church may be based on many bonds of desirable unity; but amongst the Colored, there is only the very negative unity of being non-White, and the undesired exclusion from the regular, ordinary parish. Any longer in Omaha, a Colored Catholic Church seems like a contradiction in terms; for the Church's interest and leadership in social reforms would seem to call now, after a steady period of careful preparation, for the removal of any bonds of outdated segregation. Certainly the championship on