

the part of the Church for the equality of a minority group, would remove the greatest hindrance in our labors for the conversion of the Colored. The necessary preparatory period has been a time of compromise; its good results have been achieved, and the preparation has been made; but if prolonged, all the evil results and bitter criticism will certainly be increased.

(5) The Proposed Change is Absolutely Necessary for St. Benedict's School Program.

It must be realized that next year St. Benedict's will be the only all-Negro School in the entire State of Nebraska. As such, or as a predominantly Colored School, it can be justified only on parish lines -- or we alone, in the entire State shall seem to stand for segregation. Long School will be closed; and that will mean a real integration on the part of the public school system; for the Grade Schools of Lake, Kellom, Howard Kennedy, and Lothrop, are all working on a non-segregated basis. Such of course is also the policy of the public high schools; and such is now the practice of a good number of the Catholic High Schools. However, to date this has been achieved in only a few of the Catholic Grade Schools; and the practice of telling the young Colored who apply, to "Go on down to your own St. Benedict's", cannot logically be criticized as long as our present status continues. The State Examiners last year were quite surprised that we were an all-Colored School, and wondered about our policy. Also, our good Catholic parents who are anxious for their children's best preparation for the future, cannot help but be disturbed by the definite psychological disadvantage of their children attending a segregated institution. It is the plain truth that a lack of confidence, a feeling of inferiority, an absence of right training in general poise and adaptability is engendered by such segregated training through the important early formative years of schooling. Please believe me, all our efforts at extracurricular activities of integration have proven an unsatisfactory substitute for this lack of non-segregation. I know what it does; I have seen it work; and on my word, it cannot but make the child unprepared and unfit, for the healthy integration of high school and for the general competition of modern living. It simply defeats us, and all our years of labor in preparation. Added to the defeatist table-talk that is all too common in the Colored Home, it develops a pessimistic slant in the mind of our youngsters. Please do not believe that I am overstating the case; these are the facts of my experience. It is becoming increasingly difficult to demand that our Catholic children attend a segregated school, the only segregated school in the entire State of Nebraska. And, as we all realize, that school is a terrible expense; yet that school is our one hope for the future.

It might also be well to mention here some of the reasons against such a change. For it is true that certain difficulties would have to be faced, and certain disadvantages would arise for a time. Here is a brief listing and discussion of such reasons against the change as I can think of:

- (1) St. Benedict's would be the poorest parish of Omaha, with some need of Archdiocesan support.