

February 23, 1948

The meeting opened with a prayer - the minutes were read and accepted.

Father Markoe then read the letter from Father Daniel Lord. The letter was quite long, and was answering several inquiries made by Father Markoe.

- a) His attitude is unchanged - Act, don't discuss. The reason Father Lord objects to discussion is because of the bitterness that exists on both sides of the racial question.
- b) Father Markoe compared teaching to discussion -- in answer to this Father Lord maintains there is no similarity because in teaching, the feelings are not involved and the discussion is impersonal. Also -
- c) Father Lord believes that discussion of ^{social issues} "seems" to make a problem whereas Father Markoe believes that it is a "spiritual work of mercy".

In his reply to Father Lord's letter, Father Markoe agreed that "Actions speak louder than words", but this question is - How to get this action? (1) Suppose the desired action is not under our control? To illustrate this point Father Markoe told of a case from his own experience. He knew a young girl whom he wished to enroll in St. Louis University. However, the Board of Regents determined the enrollment, so Father Markoe took the matter up with the Board, ~~where~~ the Board members discussed the situation and permitted the girl to enroll. The whole purpose is by friendly discussion, when it is necessary, we are enabled to "eliminate the social evil of racial discrimination".

A Comment from Father Markoe's brother is

this - "When you control the policy, you have the authority to go ahead without discussion."

However, "in nine cases out of ten," discussion is necessary "because the prejudiced people are in control."

Reports on the contacts ~~with~~ⁱⁿ regard to existing problems among Negro Catholics followed.

1) Father Mankoe

- a) Contacted Mr. Foxall and advised him to go to Sacred Heart School to inquire about the possibility of admittance for his two girls.
- b) The case of Mrs. Mary Scott - in regard to the Confessional - is discarded because that particular priest is now dead.
- c) Has all the facts pertaining to the Davis girl.
- d) Also, he has talked with Father Joseph R. Moylan, S.J. who will be present at our next meeting to present to the group his experiences and findings as pastor of St. Benedict's, the Negro Catholic Church in Omaha.

2) Denny reported on the visit he and Chuck had with Father Oserick of Sacred Heart Parish. It is reported that Father Oserick said

- a) That Negroes are welcome to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion, but he will not register them as parishioners because they have a parish and because he wouldn't want to deprive them of the support ~~the~~

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St. Benedict's receives from the Negro & Indian Collection sponsored by our Church.

3) Robert Hollins — visited the Mother Superior of Sacred Heart School and Father Osdeick also. His report was done very well, and there is reason to believe that action will be started in the direction the group is seeking — that is justice and charity for all racial groups.

a) The Mother Superior told Mr. Hollins that the Sisters had been instructed by their Spiritual Adviser not to accept Negro Students into either the grade school or the high school.

b) Father Osdeick

1) at first denied making this statement to the Sisters of Sacred Heart School. When told that the Mother Superior had quoted him, he spoke of the overcrowded conditions of the school!

2) However, his attitude during the entire interview was evasive, and he finally said that "No one had the right to question him."

4) Denny and Jack visited Father Corboy — who said "I will accept them if I want to, I will refuse if I choose." Father Corboy does not want to be put on the record as taking a definite stand.

Father Markoe cautioned the members to remember ~~that~~ when the schools we contact do not look at the overall picture, but only the own small schools in question. He thinks it wise to suggest

jumping the application of the Negro student - that is, squeeze a student in. If this would be done, a tremendous contribution to the elimination of prejudice would result.

~~After~~
After the surveys are completed, the results are to be taken to Father Schneider, Superintendent of Catholic schools. This idea resulted from a suggestion made by Mr. Pugh.

By sticking to the truth we have the Canon Law, the Pronouncements of the Pope and the teaching of the Church as a basis for our contentions - this is our closing thought. It is well to remember that ~~it~~ is necessary to get the support of the superiors.

Visitors were Mr Robert Hollins and Mr Pugh, Mrs Underwood and Mrs Floyd, ~~with~~ -- Mrs Floyd accompanied Mr. Hollins and the report submitted to the group was signed by both - Mrs Agnes Payne and Miss Natalie Byrne.

Members are to turn names and authors of good books written about the racial question to Father Mankoe who will see that ~~they~~ ^{the books} are added to Creighton Library.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Ola M'Craney