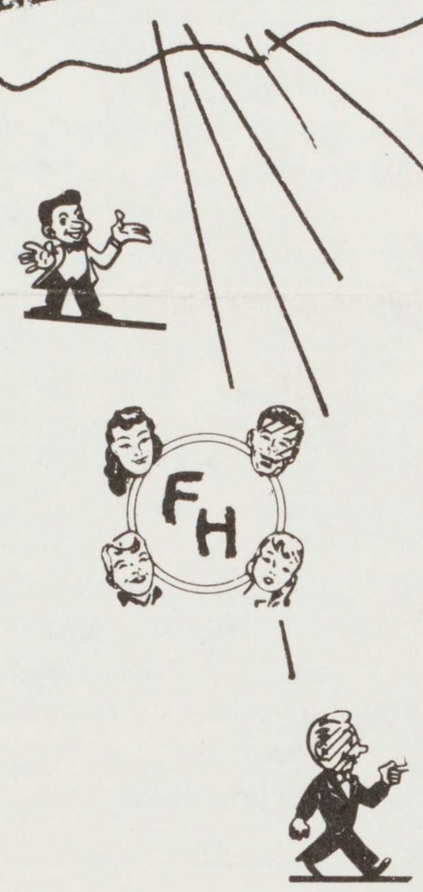
Friendship House NEWS

4233 SOUTH INDIANA AVENUE · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60653 · OAKLAND 4-7700

NATIONAL CONTEMPORARY



● THIS SUMMER Friendship House, a national center for interracial communication located in Chicago, is once again organizing week-long introductory summer programs in race relations. June 9-15 is seminarians' week, July 14-20 for others; both weeks involve lectures, study and discussions, and participants in both will be lodged with Negro families on Chicago's South Side during their programs. The number of participants is limited, and early registration a must. For more information, write to: Summer Weeks, Friendship House, 4233 South Indiana Avenue, Chicago (60653).

A RACIST CHURCH?

There was a time—and a long time it was, too—when even such a gentle apostle as the late Father John LaFarge was considered "too radical" on the race question by many of his fellow-Catholics. Things have changed somewhat since then, and over the years there have been a few other Catholic heroes, a few institutions like Friendship House, a few organizations like the Catholic Interracial Councils, and, recently, a few dioceses like Detroit. But no one, we think, would claim that white Catholics have particularly distinguished themselves in the fight against racism. Knowing this, though, it still comes as something of a shock when black Catholics tell white Catholics exactly what they think, which is what happened at the recent Black Clergy Conference, and when these views are spread all over the press.

Meeting in Detroit, the members of the Conference described the Catholic Church in the United States as "primarily a white racist institution" and said that "the Church is now in an extremely weak position in the black community." In the light of this conviction, the conference demanded that there be "black priests in decision-making positions on the diocesan level and, above all, in the black community"; that every effort be made to recruit Negroes for the priesthood (how short a time ago a black applicant would have had a hard time finding a seminary to accept him!); that dioceses establish training centers for white priests scheduled to serve in black communities; "that where no black priests belong to a diocese, efforts be made to get them in"; that Negroes, married and single, be ordained permanent deacons; that each diocese in the United States allocate substantial sums for black leadership training; that within the United States Catholic Conference "a black-directed department be set up to deal with the Church's role in the struggle of black people for freedom."

What will be the Catholic reaction to the statement by the Black Clergy Conference? It is encouraging that at their annual spring meeting the American bishops endorsed the national riot commission's conclusion that white racism was the major cause of racial strife in the nation's cities; at the same time this does not necessarily mean too much, for the second Vatican Council demonstrated that bishops are much more progressive in a body than they are singly. We would like very much to think that things have changed, but we are not too hopeful. If past experience is any guide, at least, those Catholics and Catholic institutions and dioceses which have in fact done something in the fight against racism will strike their breasts, admit to sins and say *mea culpa*. And at the same time those who have done little or nothing will attack the members of the Black Clergy Conference and indignantly deny their charge—when all the while the purely token Negro presence in their schools, seminaries, and religious communities, will give the lie to their denial.

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Dr. M.L. King, Jr.
Rev. Jesse Jackson
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Msgr. Daniel Cantwell
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Fr. Carl Lezak
William Settles

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Friendship House Plans Summer Weeks

Friendship house, a national center for interracial communication, headquartered in Chicago since 1942, is again organizing week-long introductory summer programs in race relations.

The first week, June 9-15, is planned as a work-study week for seminarians.

PARTICIPANTS will live in the homes of Negro families who have been closely associated with Friendship house.

The second week, July 14-20, will be a grass roots leadership week for all adults concerned about developing programs on interracial communication in their own communities.

Daily sessions will be held at Friendship house as well as in oher areas of the city. As with the seminarians, the participants will stay with families on Chicago's south side.

Those interested in participating in these programs should write for further information to: Summer Weeks, Friendship house, 4233 S. Indiana, Chicago, Ill. 60653.

COMMUNITY

★OUR PUBLICATION since 1941 becomes a quarterly with the June 1968 issue with an exciting new format and increased pages.

The first issue is dedicated to the LIVING memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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July 5-7 and Aug. 9-11, Friendship House weekends at Childerly Farm, near Chicago. Racial justice and spirituality explored.
Write: Friendship House, 4233 S. Indiana ave., Chicago 60653.

OPEN HOUSE! OPEN HOUSE! OPEN HOUSE!

New branch office of FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

Sunday, June 23, 1968 2 - 6 p.m.

8201 S. Ashland Avenue

New phone -- 874-1477