0-19 (Rev. 9-7-56)

Segregation — Louisiana

Tolson
Nease
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

Eleanor Roosevelt's Day

The Vatican Reveals Stand on Segregation

HYDE PARK, N. Y.—The Vatican's answer to an appeal by Roman Catholic laymen of New Orleans against their archbishop's attitude on racial integration was an interesting one.

The reply, I am sure, states the position of the Roman Catholic Church on segregation.

The state said that the church is "concerned with souls, and all souls are equally dear to her" and, in view of this, must be unalterably opposed to all forms of discrimination or segregation, whether it be in New Orleans or in South Africa.

The Vatican spokesman pointed out that the Catholic Church has stood against racial discrimination as far back as Hitler's day when it was practiced against the German Jews.

The church does not accept the argument, either, that segregation does not necessarily mean discrimination. The Vatican apparently takes the position that this matter was settled by the U. S. Supreme Court.

The spokesman for the Vatican also was concerned over a breach of form, calling it an offense against the church.

The New Orleans laymen apparently should not have addressed their appeal directly to the Pope but rather to the Sacred Congregation of the Council, which is committed to "the universal discipline of the secular clergy and the Christian people." And the spokesman also was critical of their public appeal against their own ecclesiastical superior.

The backing of the Roman Catholic Church in the fight against segregation is important, for many other churches will gain courage in their opposition by the mere fact that the Roman Catholic Church has spoken out.

Wash. Post and Times Herald
Wash. News 38
Wash. Star
N. Y. Herald Tribune
N. Y. Journal-American
N. Y. Mirror
N. Y. Daily News
N. Y. Times
Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

Date AUG 15 1957

INDEXED - 58

62-101087-21-A

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191 AUG 30 1957

EX-131

57 SEP 3 1957