

# GOD'S

## Frontiersmen

JOHN CARROLL,  
ARCHBISHOP  
OF  
BALTIMORE

ENGLAND, 1774...

WELL, FATHER CARROLL, I'M VERY GLAD TO LEARN THAT YOU'RE RETURNING WITH US. THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR PRIESTS IN THE COLONIES.

YES — I AM TOLD THERE ARE ONLY 19 IN MY COLONY, MARYLAND, AND THAT THERE IS NO CATHOLIC CHURCH AT ALL.



WHICH ISN'T SURPRISING WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT ENGLISH LAW PROHIBITS CATHOLIC CHURCHES OR SCHOOLS.

YES, THAT'S WHY I HAD TO GO TO SCHOOL AND COLLEGE IN EUROPE. WHY, I'VE BEEN AWAY SINCE I WAS 14 YEARS OLD.



WILL YOU RETURN TO MARYLAND?

YES — I'LL BEGIN WORK IN ROCK CREEK, MARYLAND. MY MOTHER HAS AN ESTATE THERE.



HE BUILT A SMALL CHAPEL ON HIS MOTHER'S ESTATE, BUT, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, WAS ON THE ROAD...

OH, JOHN — IT SEEMS AS IF YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE ALL THE TIME. I HARDLY EVER SEE YOU.

BUT REMEMBER, MOTHER, I'M THE ONLY MISSIONARY IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA. THERE AREN'T MANY CATHOLICS, BUT THEY NEED ME. I MUST GO TO THEM.



IN THE SPRING OF 1776, FATHER CARROLL RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HIS COUSIN, CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON.

YOU SAY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS WANTS YOU TO BE ON A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO GO TO CANADA?

YES — FRANKLIN, SAM CHASE, COUSIN CHARLES, AND I ARE TO TRY TO GET THE CANADIANS TO HELP US IN THE COMING STRUGGLE WITH ENGLAND — BUT I DON'T KNOW...

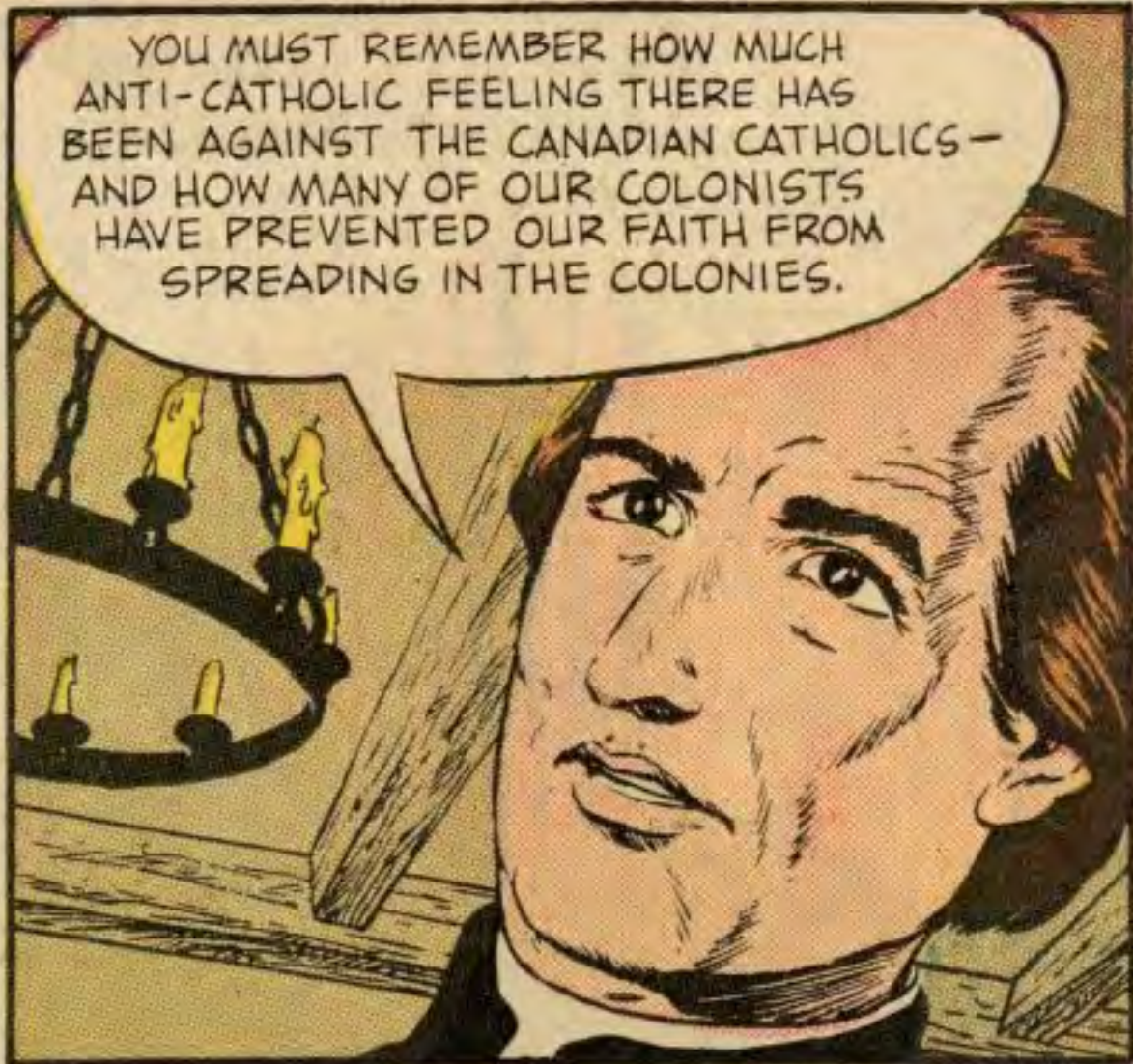




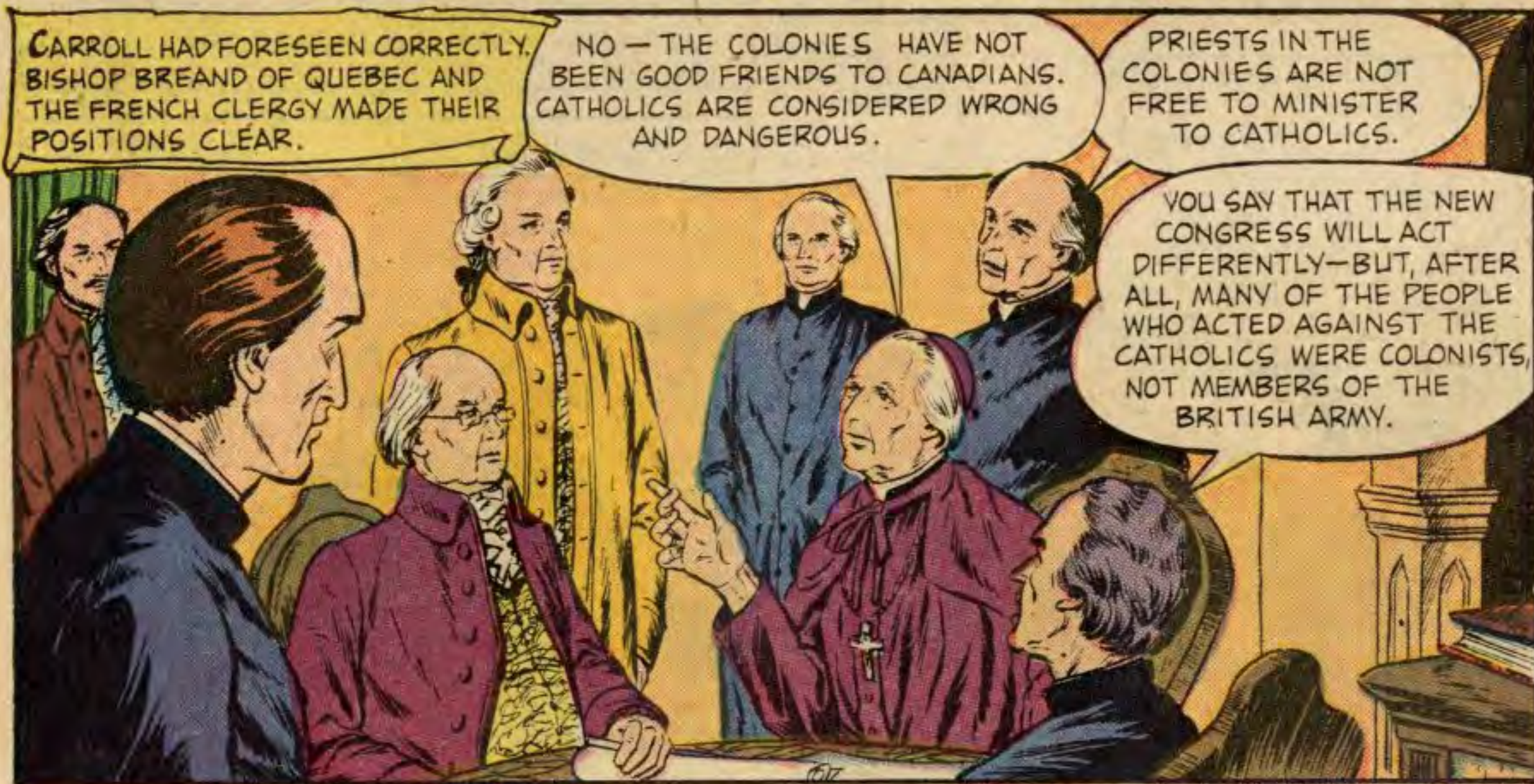


YOU MEAN YOU DON'T THINK WE SHOULD SEND A COMMITTEE?

NO — IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T THINK IT WILL DO ANY GOOD. THE CANADIANS DO NOT HAVE THE SAME REASONS FOR TAKING UP ARMS AGAINST ENGLAND — BESIDES, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS FREE IN CANADA.



YOU MUST REMEMBER HOW MUCH ANTI-CATHOLIC FEELING THERE HAS BEEN AGAINST THE CANADIAN CATHOLICS — AND HOW MANY OF OUR COLONISTS HAVE PREVENTED OUR FAITH FROM SPREADING IN THE COLONIES.



CARROLL HAD FORESEEN CORRECTLY. BISHOP BREAND OF QUEBEC AND THE FRENCH CLERGY MADE THEIR POSITIONS CLEAR.

NO — THE COLONIES HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD FRIENDS TO CANADIANS. CATHOLICS ARE CONSIDERED WRONG AND DANGEROUS.

PRIESTS IN THE COLONIES ARE NOT FREE TO MINISTER TO CATHOLICS.

YOU SAY THAT THE NEW CONGRESS WILL ACT DIFFERENTLY — BUT, AFTER ALL, MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO ACTED AGAINST THE CATHOLICS WERE COLONISTS, NOT MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

THE MISSION TO CANADA RETURNED TO THE COLONIES IN JUNE, 1776. FATHER CARROLL RETURNED TO ROCK CREEK AND CONTINUED HIS WORK AS PASTOR OF TWO COLONY PARISHES. WHEN THE COLONIES HAD FINALLY WON THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND HAD BECOME A NEW NATION, FATHER CARROLL KNEW THAT MANY IMPORTANT CHANGES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE.



IN JUNE, 1783, HE MET AT WHITEMARSH, MD., WITH FIVE OTHER PRIESTS.

ACTUALLY, IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS WE ARE STILL UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF AN ENGLISHMAN — THE VICAR APOSTOLIC OF LONDON.

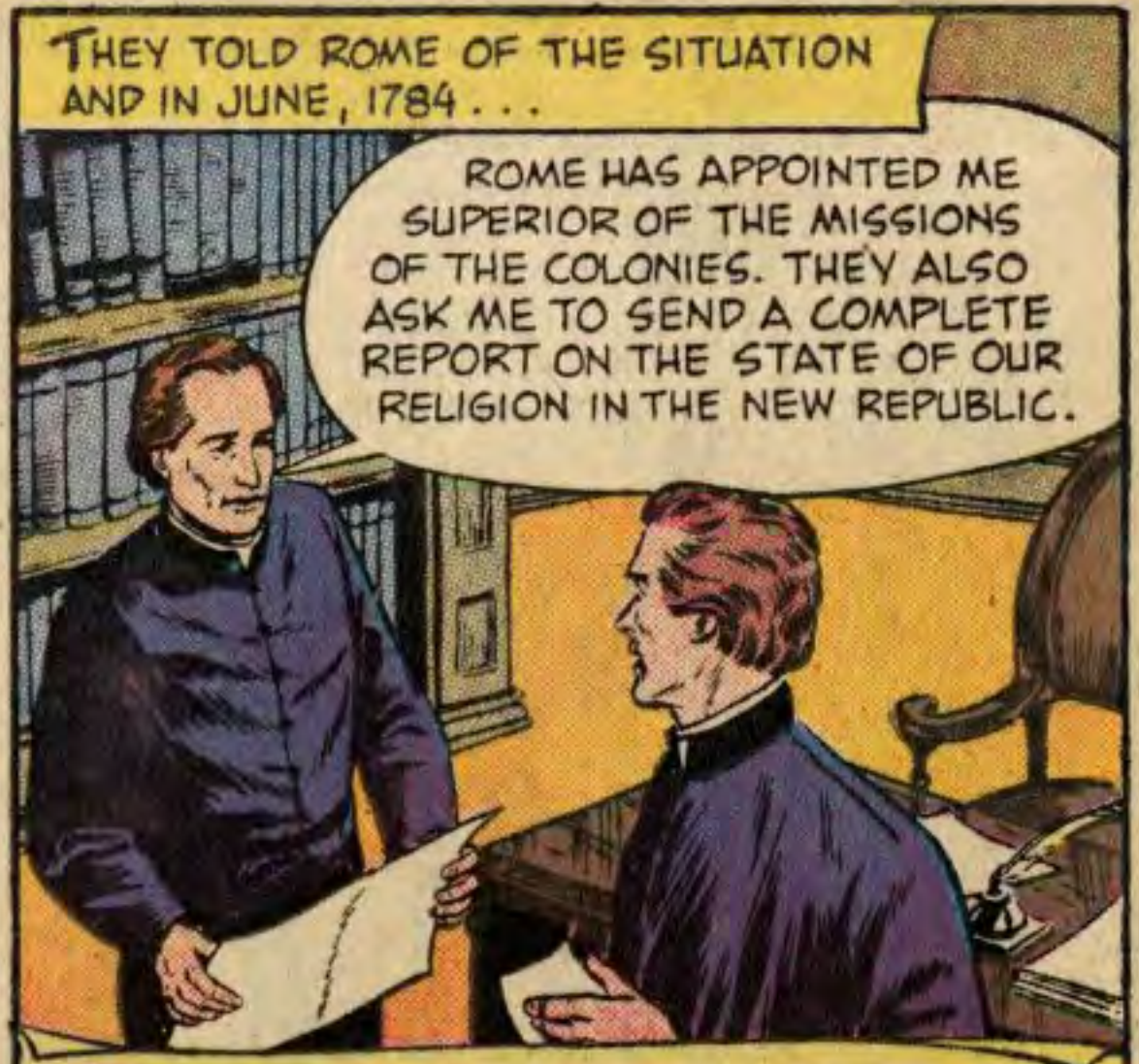
WHICH IS A VERY BAD POSITION TO BE IN — CONSIDERING THE STRONG ANTI-BRITISH FEELING THERE IS HERE.





YES—BUT THE COLONIES ARE GROWING. THE NUMBER OF CATHOLICS HAS INCREASED AND STILL MORE ARE ON THEIR WAY.

WE DON'T NEED A BISHOP YET, BUT WE DO NEED SOMEONE WITH THE POWERS OF A BISHOP.



THEY TOLD ROME OF THE SITUATION AND IN JUNE, 1784 . . .

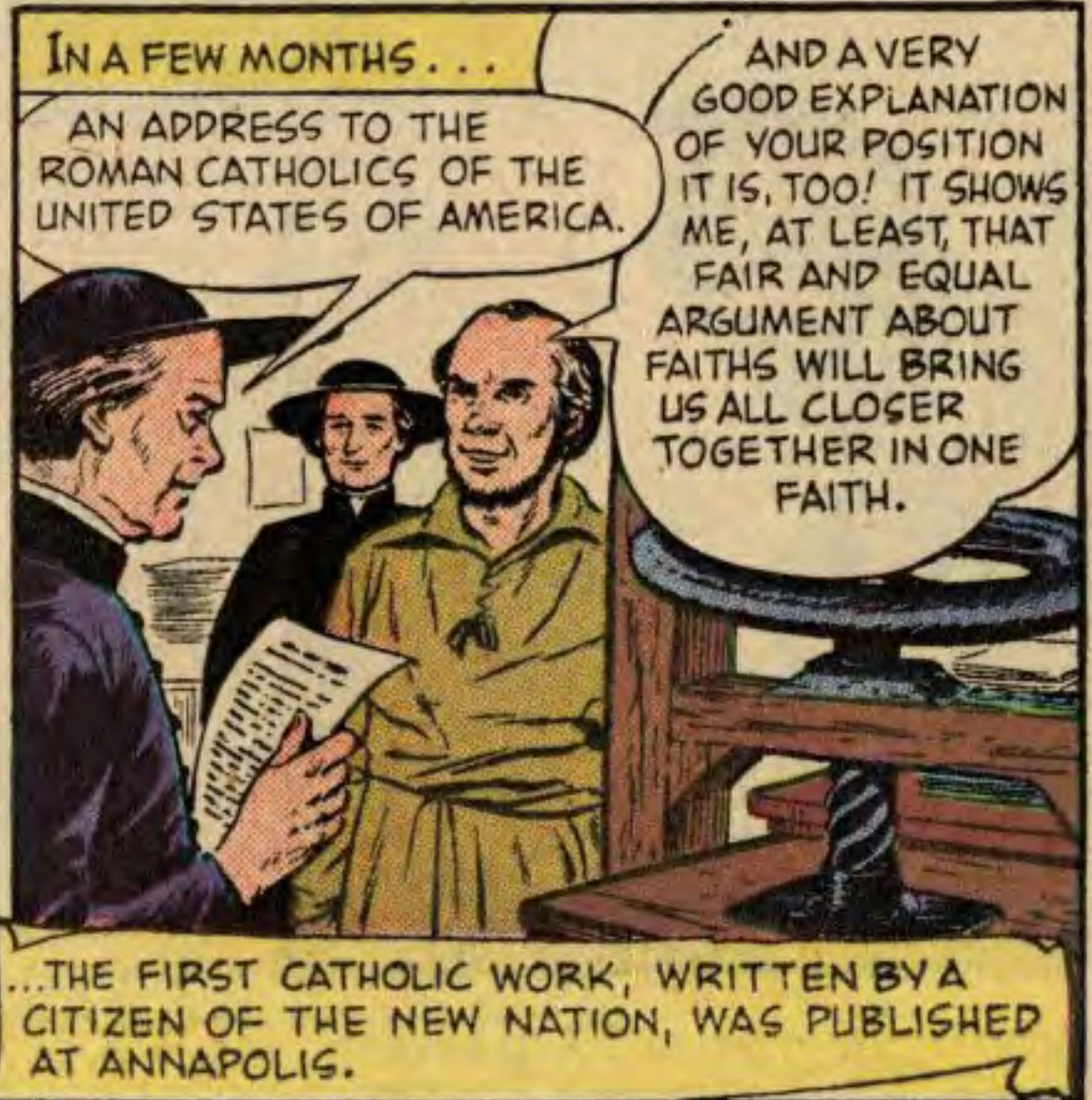
ROME HAS APPOINTED ME SUPERIOR OF THE MISSIONS OF THE COLONIES. THEY ALSO ASK ME TO SEND A COMPLETE REPORT ON THE STATE OF OUR RELIGION IN THE NEW REPUBLIC.



FATHER CARROLL'S WORK BEGAN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. IN THAT SAME YEAR . . .

THIS MAN WHARTON HAS MADE MANY FALSE CHARGES AND TOLD MANY LIES IN HIS PAMPHLET. HE WILL TURN MANY AGAINST US.

NO—BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS ON OUR SIDE AND WE CAN MAKE USE OF PRESSES, TOO.



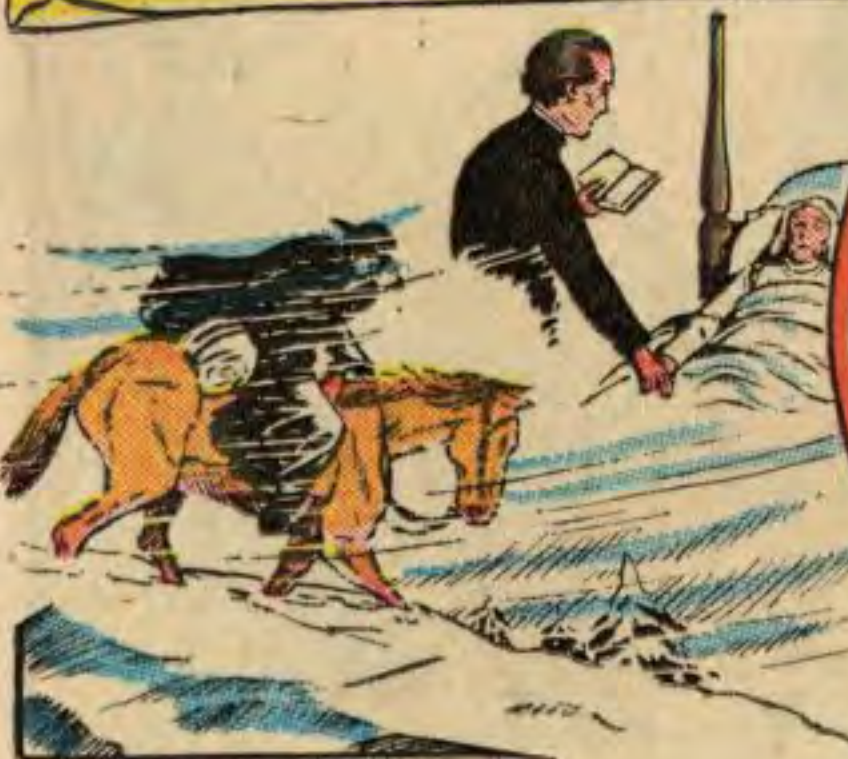
IN A FEW MONTHS . . .

AN ADDRESS TO THE ROMAN CATHOLICS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AND A VERY GOOD EXPLANATION OF YOUR POSITION IT IS, TOO! IT SHOWS ME, AT LEAST, THAT FAIR AND EQUAL ARGUMENT ABOUT FAITHS WILL BRING US ALL CLOSER TOGETHER IN ONE FAITH.

...THE FIRST CATHOLIC WORK, WRITTEN BY A CITIZEN OF THE NEW NATION, WAS PUBLISHED AT ANNAPOLIS.

OF COURSE, THERE WAS THE MISSIONARY WORK OF HIS PARISH—A PARISH THAT EXTENDED OVER 3,000,000 SQUARE MILES. THE NEW SUPERIOR SPENT ALMOST ALL HIS TIME ON HORSEBACK.





THERE WERE OTHER SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED. IN 1787. . .

THERE ARE MANY OF US GERMANS IN PHILADELPHIA. WE FORMED OUR OWN PARISH AND BUILT OUR OWN CHURCH. WE PAY ALL THE EXPENSES. BECAUSE OF THIS WE THINK WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE OUR OWN PASTORS AND PRIESTS.

THIS SAME QUESTION CAME UP IN NEW YORK LAST YEAR. MY OPINION REMAINS THE SAME.

ROME HAS APPOINTED ME PREFECT-APOSTOLIC. I AM THE SUPERIOR, WITH REGARD TO PRIESTS AS WELL AS PEOPLE. THE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT PRIESTS AND PASTORS TO CHURCHES BELONGS TO ME — NOT TO THE PARISHIONERS.



YES—I THINK IT'S TIME THAT WE HAD SOMEONE WITH MORE AUTHORITY THAN I HAVE — A BISHOP.

BUT IT WOULD NOT BE A GOOD THING IF ROME SENT A FOREIGN BISHOP TO THE NEW REPUBLIC. WE SHOULD ASK THE HOLY FATHER TO LET US CHOOSE OUR OWN BISHOP.

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS DECISION. AT A MEETING OF THE CLERGY IN MARCH, 1788. . .

NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE MORE TROUBLE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BUILT THEIR OWN CHURCHES.



A PETITION WAS DRAWN UP AND SENT TO PIUS VI. ON JULY 12, 1788, CARDINAL ANTONELLI WROTE TO THE PRIESTS. . .

. . . HIS HOLINESS, AS A SPECIAL FAVOR, AND FOR THIS FIRST TIME, PERMITS THE PRIESTS . . . TO ELECT A BISHOP FROM THE SAID CLERGY. . . AND PRESENT HIM TO THE APOSTOLIC SEE FOR CONFIRMATION.



THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT WHOM THE CLERGY WOULD CHOOSE AND, AT LUELWORTH, ENGLAND, ON AUGUST 15, 1790, JOHN CARROLL. . .



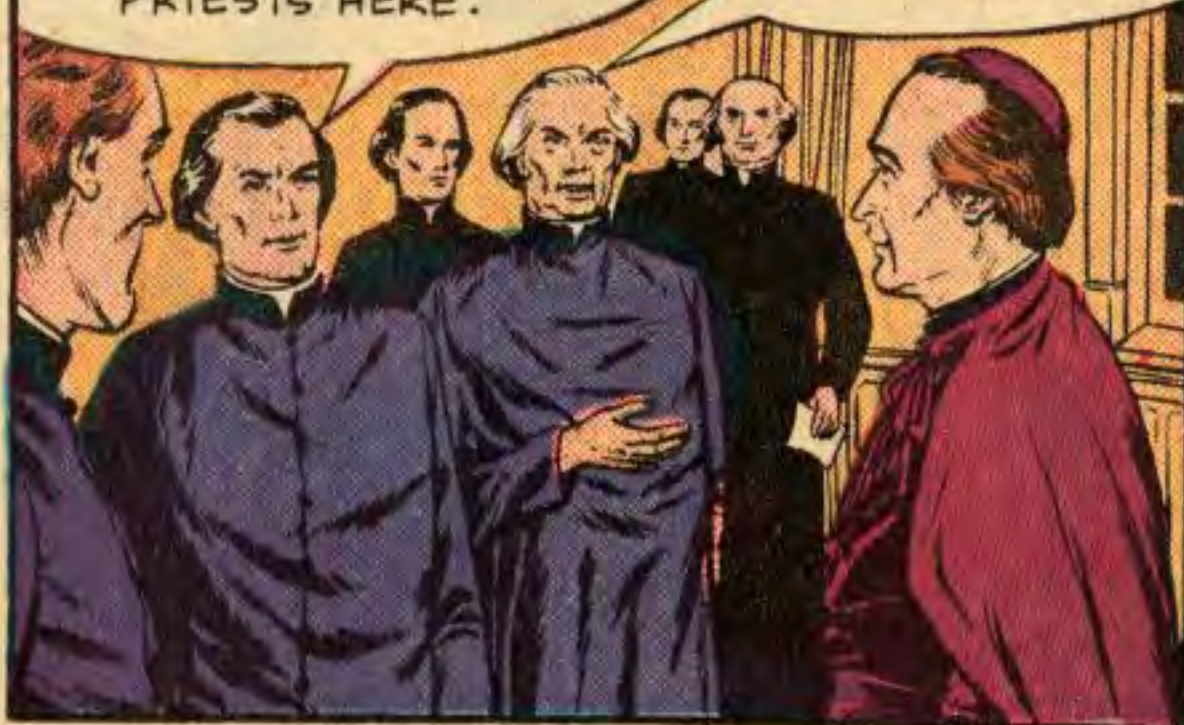
. . . BECAME THE FIRST BISHOP OF THE NEW NATION.



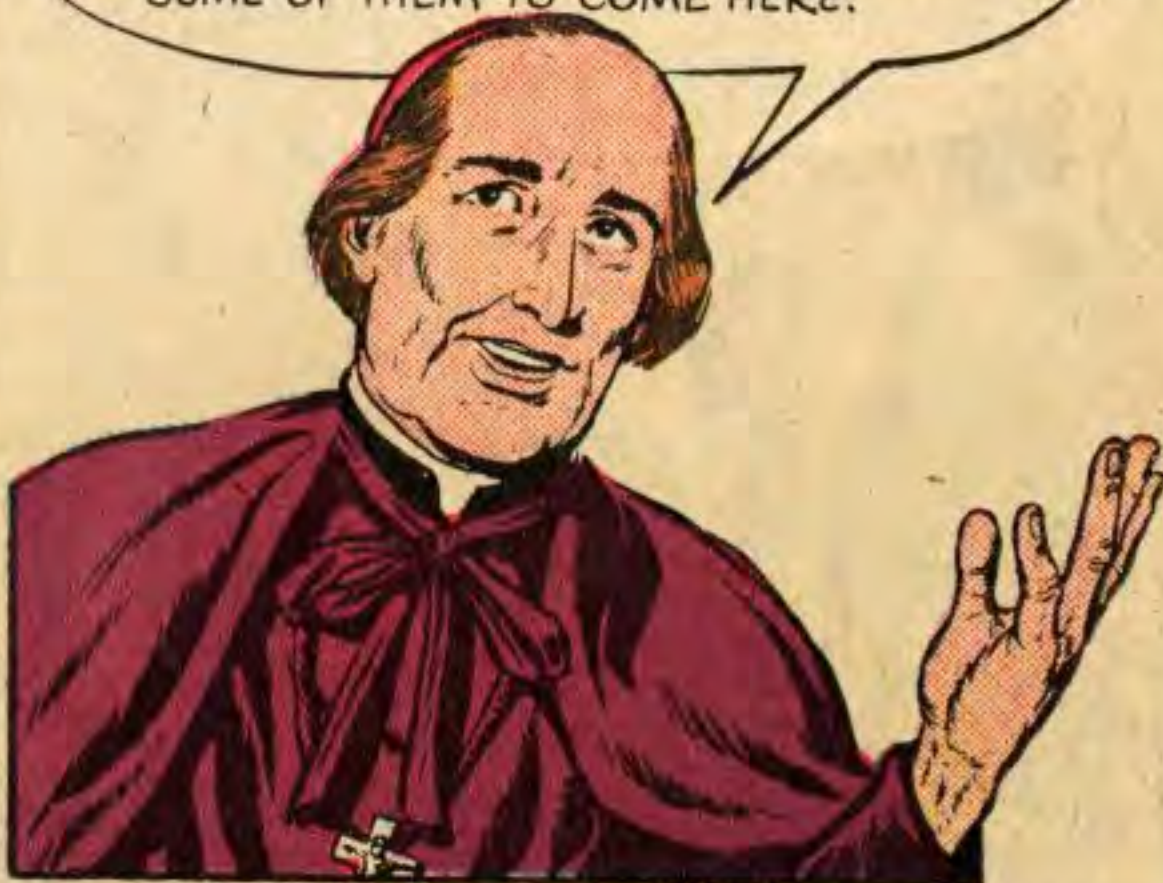
EACH NEW DAY IN THE NEW NATION BROUGHT NEW PROBLEMS. BISHOP CARROLL CALLED A MEETING OF THE CLERGY IN BALTIMORE IN NOV. 1791.

CATHOLICS SEEM TO BE POURING FROM THE OLD WORLD TO THE NEW. WE DON'T HAVE HALF ENOUGH PRIESTS HERE.

AND WE MUST SEND YOUNG MEN TO SEMINARIES IN EUROPE.



I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU ON THAT SCORE THE REVOLUTION IN FRANCE HAS DRIVEN THE SULPICIAN FATHERS FROM THEIR CHURCHES. I HAVE WRITTEN AND ASKED SOME OF THEM TO COME HERE.



IN 1791, IN BALTIMORE...

THERE IT IS, FATHER—THE SPOT ON WHICH I'D LIKE YOU TO BEGIN ST. MARY'S SEMINARY AND COLLEGE.

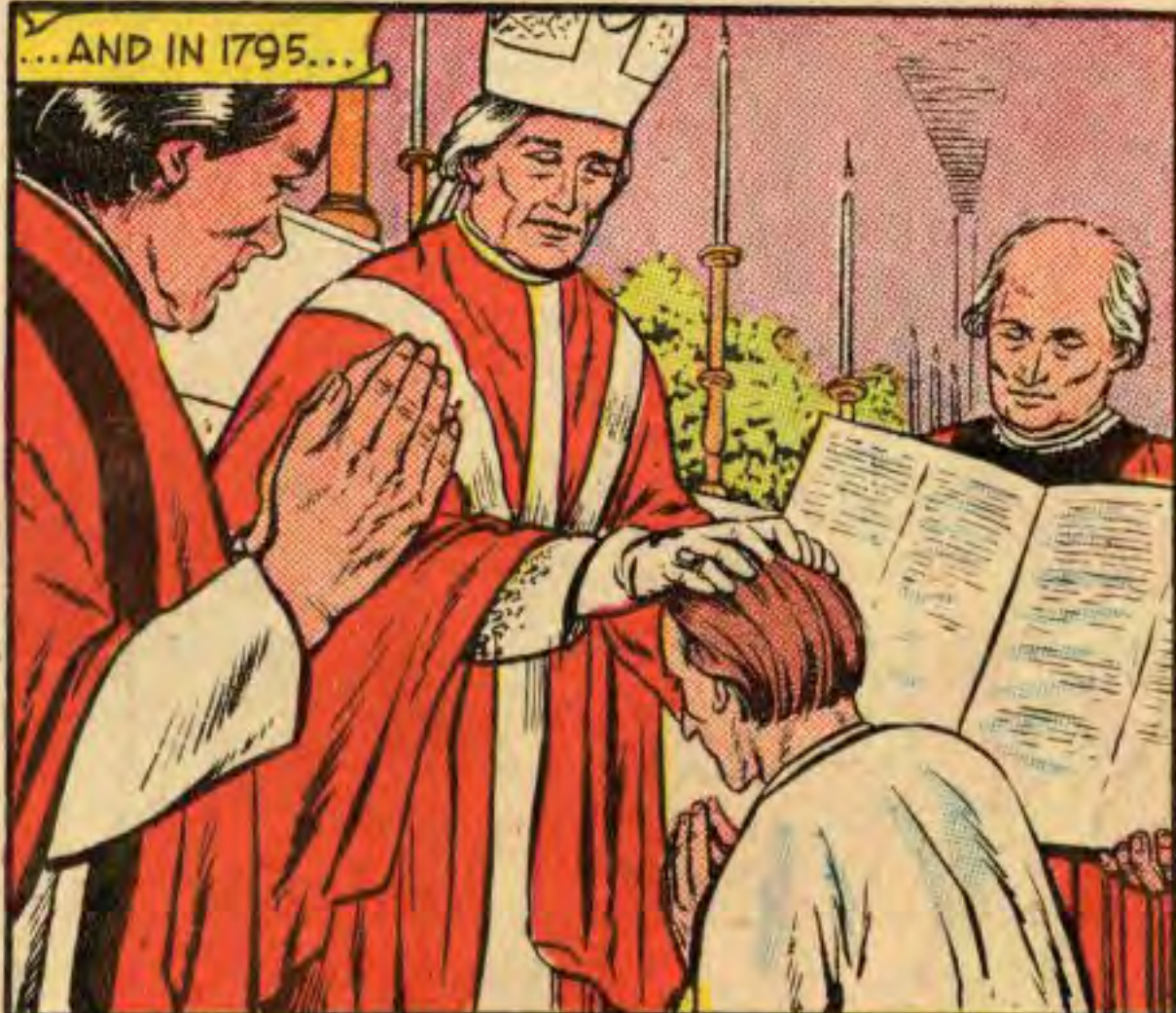
FINE—A NEW SEMINARY UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF AN OLD FRIEND—ST. SULPICE.



STEPHEN BADIN HAD BEGUN HIS STUDIES FOR THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE OLD WORLD. BUT IN 1793 BISHOP CARROLL CONFERRED HOLY ORDERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE NEW WORLD.



...AND IN 1795...



... HE ORDAINED PRINCE DEMETRIUS GALLITZEN, WHO HAD MADE ALL HIS STUDIES IN THE SEMINARY AT BALTIMORE.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT EVENT WHICH HELPED WEAVE THE PATTERN OF THE CHURCH IN THE NEW NATION WAS THE FROMM AFFAIR...

YES—THIS MAN FROMM IS AN EX-PRIEST FROM GERMANY. HE HAS TRICKED THE PARISHIONERS OF A CHURCH INTO NAMING HIM PASTOR.

BUT I THOUGHT THE CHURCH AND LAND BELONGED TO FATHER BROLIVERS.





IT DID. BUT FATHER BROUVERS WILLED THE CHURCH AND THE LAND TO HIS SUCCESSOR, AND SINCE THE PARISHIONERS CHOSE FROMM AS THE SUCCESSOR, HE CLAIMS THE PROPERTY.

OH, I SEE. THEN THAT'S WHY THE PARISHIONERS HAVE TAKEN IT TO THE LAW COURTS.



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE DISCIPLINE AND PRACTICES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CAME BEFORE THE LAW. MUCH DEPENDED ON THE DECISION.

EVERY CATHOLIC CONGREGATION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES IS SUBJECT TO THE BISHOP'S INSPECTION, AND WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM HIM NO PRIEST CAN EXERCISE ANY PASTORAL FUNCTIONS OVER THE CONGREGATION.



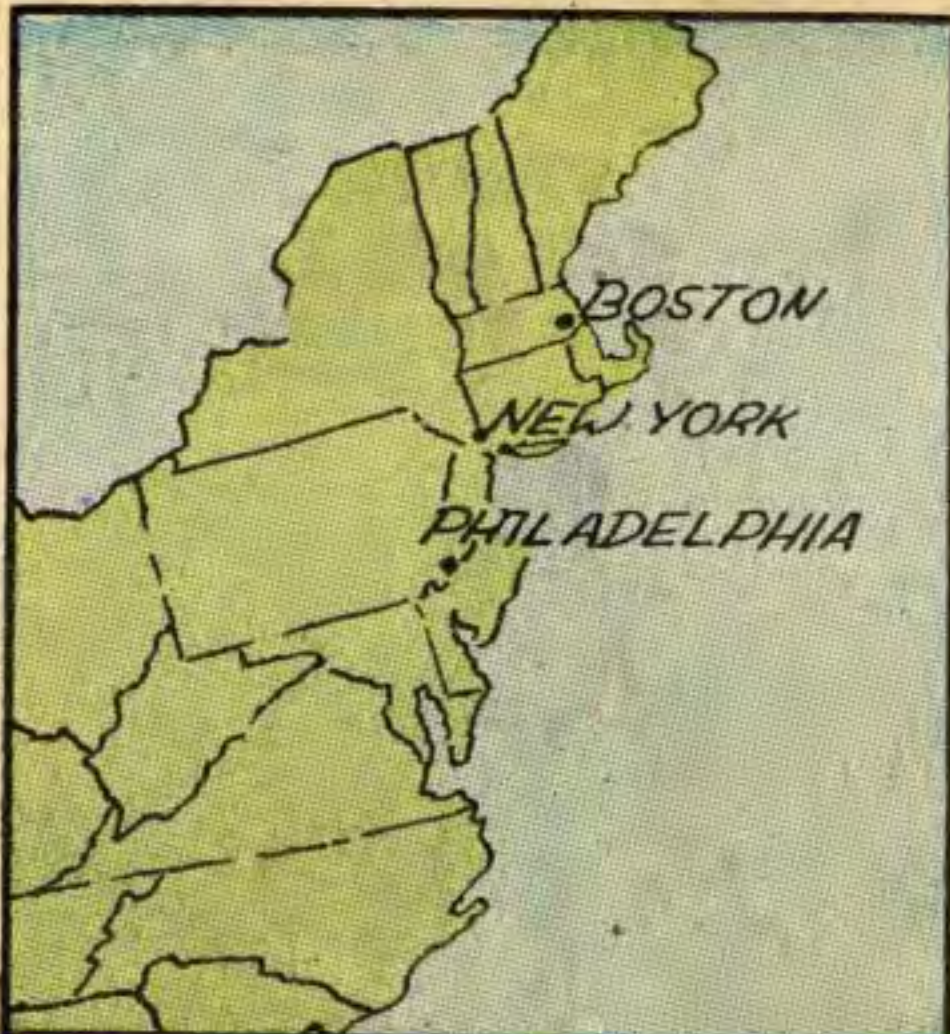
THIS IN 1798, THE COURTS OF THE NEW NATION RECOGNIZED AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE AUTHORITY AND POSITION OF A BISHOP. THE CHURCH WAS GIVEN THE POWER TO RUN ITS OWN AFFAIRS IN ITS OWN WAY.

THE MISSIONARY WORK CONTINUED...

I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. PRESIDENT WASHINGTON IS RECOMMENDING A TRULY CHRISTIAN POLICY TOWARD THE INDIANS, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY A CATHOLIC PRIEST TO ACT AS CHAPLAIN.



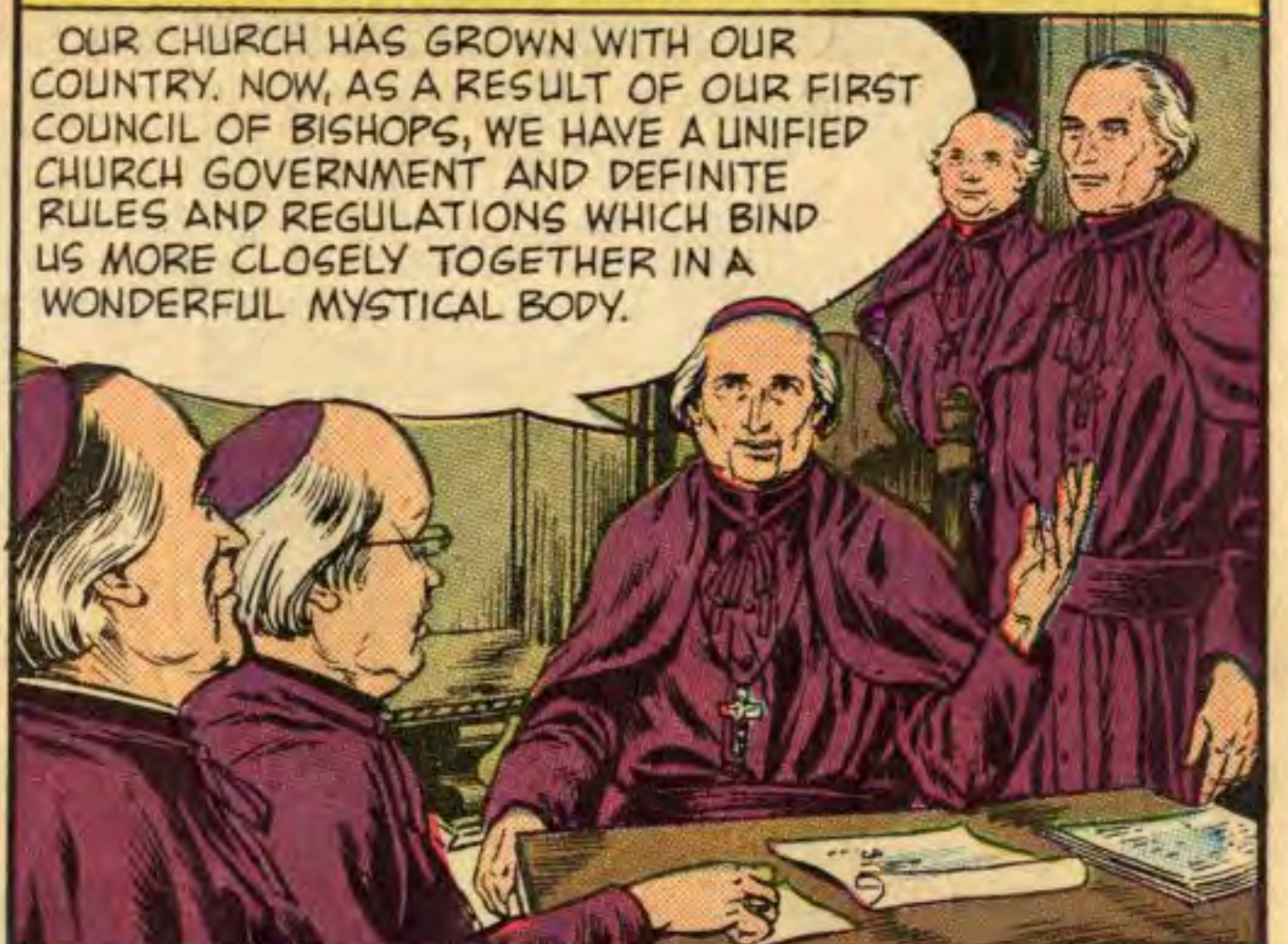
FURTHER PROOF OF THE GROWTH OF THE NEW NATION CAME IN 1808...



...WHEN BISHOP CARROLL WAS RAISED TO THE RANK OF ARCHBISHOP AND HIS DIOCESE DIVIDED INTO THE DIOCESES OF NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, BOSTON, AND BARDSTOWN (IN KENTUCKY).

THEN IN 1810 THE NEW BISHOPS HELD THEIR FIRST PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AT BALTIMORE.

OUR CHURCH HAS GROWN WITH OUR COUNTRY. NOW, AS A RESULT OF OUR FIRST COUNCIL OF BISHOPS, WE HAVE A UNIFIED CHURCH GOVERNMENT AND DEFINITE RULES AND REGULATIONS WHICH BIND US MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER IN A WONDERFUL MYSTICAL BODY.



DUE IN GREAT PART TO JOHN CARROLL'S WORK, THE CHURCH IN AMERICA HAD BECOME A FULLY ORGANIZED BODY, FILLED WITH LIFE AND HOPE AND THROBBING WITH ALL THE FREEDOM OF A NEW COUNTRY. ARCHBISHOP CARROLL DIED ON NOV. 22, 1815.