



A Muslim convert, Dr. Dorothy Dorsey is now Dorothy 13X.

First white woman becomes a Muslim

By Barbara Reynolds

IN HER FLOWING white habit, Dr. Dorothy Dorsey looks every bit the nun she planned to become in the early sixties.

But her religious garb marks a conversion to a faith to which no white could belong until recently—the Nation of Islam, which for years denounced whites as “blue-eyed devils.”

Now Dorothy 13X, the first white woman to join the Muslims calls her conversion from Catholicism to Islam a “natural stage of her personal growth.

“Catholicism, the idea of a Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, does not fit in a natural order. Islam and the study of the Holy Koran is relative to today’s world,” said the 38-year-old native of Lawrenceburg, Ky.

SHE SAID SHE was baptized a Catholic, entered a convent in Los Angeles to join the order of the Sisters of Social Service but was “radicalized” by the student movement and her husband, Donald 12X Dorsey, a Muslim and former member of the Black Panther Party.

Dr. Dorsey, who has a Ph.D in sociology and anthropology, said, “Around the late sixties while teaching on various college campuses, I became disenchanted and began searching for truth, something real that was not so hypocritical. I found that in Islam.”

Although she said, she has been a practicing Muslim for six years, taught by her husband, it was not until last year that they both could worship together at the Chicago mosque.

TODAY AS A TEACHER at the Clara Muhammad University on the city’s South Side, she admits that some blacks are hostile toward her. “It has been implied that I am an intruder and that I have an ulterior motive, but that’s among the non-believers. The Muslims, themselves, have accepted me as a sister.”

Since Wallace D. Muhammad, the new spiritual leader of the Nation opened the faith to non-blacks last year, Latinos, a Korean, a family from Thailand, as well as other ethnic groups have joined.

Muhammad recently announced that the Nation would unite all races under Islam and has opened mosques in Africa and the Caribbean.