

# Abolishment of Divorce Asked By Judge at Family Life Meet

Washington — (NC) — Catholic leadership toward eventual complete abolishment of divorce was called for in an address by Judge Michael F. Walsh of the New York State Supreme Court at the National Catholic Conference on Family Life.

An estimated 2,000 persons, including representatives of virtually every American diocese, have participated in some or all of the sessions, at which housing problems, the low urban birth rate, and alarming increase in divorces were prominent among the problems which speakers correlated to the Catholic view of the family.

Judge Walsh laid the blame for the alarming increase in the number of divorces squarely to man's denial of God and the moral law.

### Divorce Causes Listed

Stemming from this, he listed as contributing causes: ignorance of the sacredness of marriage, hasty and ill-prepared-for marriages, usurpation of power by civil authority contrary to the natural law, childless marriages, adultery, selfishness, mixed marriages, and disrespect for the married state.

Speaking from his experience as a judge, he maintained: "Divorce makes a mockery of the civil law and of the courts. It encourages perjury and disrespect for authority. I have never met a judge who was not disgusted by his experience in matrimonial trials. Divorce has helped us to win and keep among the civilized nations first place for lawlessness."

Declaring that the only sane cure for divorce is to abolish it, but that Americans do not have the moral courage to take this step, Judge Walsh recommended that Catholics work toward it by "curbing ignorance with truth and selfishness with love."

### Birth Rate Drops

Professor Oliver E. Baker of the University of Maryland told the conference that America's birth rate now, measured by the number of children under five years of age per 1,000 women of child-bearing age, is only about one-third of what it was 150 years ago. Noting the increase in births during the war years, he nevertheless asserted that the downward trend in births beginning in 1922 and the downward trend in the birth rate about 1900 will continue.

Pointing out that the decline in births is not so great in rural areas as in the cities, Professor Baker declared that if the family is to be conserved as an institution for the reproduction of the race a large part of the population must remain in or go back to the farm.

"Compared with the billions of dollars spent in commercial advertising, how puny is the power of the Church. But God is not mocked. The wages of sin is death. The families that are seduced by these displays of grandeur are dying out, and their biological heritage, much of it good and worthy of preservation, is passing away forever."

# Teach Girls Housekeeping Monsignor Sheen Urges

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — In a message to the 14th annual National Catholic Conference on Family Life here, Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, professor of philosophy at the University urged institution of marriage courses in schools at the college level.

Attacking current practices which lead to divorces and broken homes, Father Sheen declared that "lying advertising" on the radio is a factor in the American divorce mill because it leads women to pursue false beauty and strength, forgetting that true



Among the speakers at the sessions of the 14th annual convention of the National Catholic Conference on Family Life, held at Catholic University, February 8 to 12, were, left to right: Bishop Ross M. McDonough, Dean, St. Joseph's College, West Hartford, Conn., who speaks on "The Child Develops Morally"; Very Rev. Thomas Verner Moore, O. R. S., on "The Child Develops Emotionally"; Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Murphy, St. Augustine's Church, Barbours, Okla., who discussed "Church Clubs for Young Married Couples," and Mrs. Thomas G. Garrison, President, National Council of Catholic Women.

# Priest Would Ban Report Cards

Washington — (RNS) — A suggestion that periodic conferences between teachers and parents replace the time-honored "report card" was made by the Rev. William E. McManus, assistant director of the Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, before the National Conference on Family Life here.

Father McManus called the present system of sending graded cards to parents both misleading and confusing to parents. He said that the real answer to the problem a child is making in school can be found only in talks between his instructor and his parents.

# GI's 'Flimsy' Divorce Suits Against British Wives Hit

London — (NC) — Divorcing of their British wives by American servicemen at what it calls flimsy charges, has drawn an editorial protest from the United States, prominent Catholic weekly here.

"The American way of life," says the *Universum*, "is in danger of getting a very bad name through the treatment of British wives by American soldiers." The paper cites the case of an English wife who, after receiving a series of affectionate letters from her husband, suddenly was sent a notice that he intended to divorce her, giving her only two weeks to come to the United States to defend herself. She can-

not get there in time and in any case cannot enter the country without a request from the man who wishes to get rid of her, the editorial notes. "Unhappily," it adds, "this is not an isolated case."

The paper cites another case where the wife, charged with mental cruelty, could not defend herself because of certain official regulations. Another charge, which the editorial brands as "flimsy," was that a wife had failed to perform her domestic duties.

# Public School Chaplains In France Are Ousted

Paris — (NC) — Measures demanding the removal of chaplains from public schools have been backed here recently by Communists, in line with their increasingly aggressive anti-religious policy.

In the General Council of the Seine Department, which administers the largest part of the Parisian district, the Communists, joined by six Socialists, succeeded in enacting a law withdrawing funds for chaplains in public schools. The Christian Democrat and conservative minority advocated a referendum on the matter among the parents of the pupils, but was voted down.

In the General Council of the School-Olds Department, where

there is a Communist-Socialist majority, action was taken to withdraw all religious instruction at a children's tuberculosis sanatorium. A few days before 25 of the children were to have made their first Communion, the Council ordered the closing of the Chapel and the immediate removal of all statues and altars, prohibiting the celebration of Mass on the institution's property.

The anti-religious attitude now taken by the extreme leftists is in contrast to the feeling manifested after the liberation, when the Communists, particularly in Paris, declared that they wanted to extend their hand to the Catholics and invited priests and monks to help them in their struggle for a united national front.

# Czech Orphaners Transfer to Moscow

Prague — (NC) — Under terms of negotiations carried out with the Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow, members of the Czech Orthodox Church, including 100 adherents to the supremacy of Moscow, rather than the Holy See, or lack of recognition of the Czech Orthodox Church.

The action resulted after the Czech Orthodox sent a delegation to the Moscow Patriarch and petitioned that he take the Czechs under his protection. The Moscow Patriarch agreed to accept the Czechs to the Orthodox Church, on the condition that they should be subject to the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate.



# Jap Premier Sees Aid in Encyclicals

By PATRICK O'CONNOR, S.A.C. Tokyo — (NC) — The Papal teachings on social justice can be of great assistance in the new Japan, Baron Kijuro Shidehara, Prime Minister, asserted in an interview here.

The veteran statesman declared that in the past, these teachings had practically no direct influence on Japan's social and economic system, but said the Japanese people are very willing to study them.

"I am convinced that a liberal democratic system with the Emperor as constitutional monarch is the only regime that will prove stable and beneficial for Japan," The Prime Minister said.

"Without the Emperor as constitutional monarch, Japan will fall apart with anarchy and economic ruin resulting," Most-Vocal of All

The 74-year-old Premier also discussed the position of Communists in the current Japanese picture.

"I don't think there is any affinity," he asserted, "between the Japanese character and Marxism, though at present the Communist Party is the most vocal of all."

He observed that the tendency among the more conservative parties is to ignore the Communists' campaign apparently on the principle that it could never succeed in winning the Japanese people. He feels, however, that this is presuming too much.

Communism unannounced, he contends, will win votes, especially if economic and spiritual conditions favor it.

Asked whether constructive social reforms are being proposed in Japan, Premier Shidehara responded that his cabinet had prepared the reform bills which the recent extraordinary session of the Diet is now discussing.

(Turn to page 5)