

Family Life Group

Strikes At Divorce, Planned Parenthood

Philadelphia—(RNS)—A statement deploring divorce, planned parenthood, and economic conditions which compel mothers of children to work was issued by the National Catholic Family Life Conference at its 21st annual meeting here.

"WE PLEDGE ourselves anew therefore," the statement said "to the dissemination of the principles of Christian marriage and to their fulfillment in our own lives."

"ECONOMIC EVILS, detrimental to many families," it said, "still exist in spite of efforts at reform and in spite of the unparalleled resources of this country."

The conference said it believed that a national family allowance would do much to alleviate many of the serious hardships that beset many American families.

A LARGE part of the statement dealt with the role of parents in the home. It described as a "truly great need" the assumption on the part of fathers of their "divinely ordained" position as heads of families and "the conscientious fulfillment of all the responsibilities which that honored and authoritative position demands."

WORLD WAR I COMRADES



Kansas City, Mo.—Former President Harry S. Truman enjoys an anecdote with Mr. L. Curtis Terman of Kansas City during a dinner here given Mr. Truman by his World War I "buddies." Mr. Terman was captain of Battery D, 129th Field Artillery, which "Capt. Harry" commanded. (Religious News Service Photo)

Parochial Pupils Picket Motorists

Kansas City, Mo.—(RNS)—Pupils of a Roman Catholic parochial school here began picketing motorists in an attempt to prevent the killing of classmates by drivers who speed past the institution.

Eight members of the school safety patrol, led by 12-year-old Manuel Alejandro, called on Father Joseph M. Santiago, O.R.S.A., parish priest of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, and asked his help in combatting the menace to their lives.

AT THEIR suggestion, the priest got a big piece of cardboard, a paint brush and some watercolors and printed a sign bearing an admonition they dictated. It said:

"We love school. Give us a chance. Go slow, stop, and we hope to see you when you are a hundred years old. The 'Side of Guadalupe School' do thank you."

The other side of the sign was lettered: "We children request if you drive Don't drink. If you Drink Don't Drive. The Patrol Boys thank you."

The next morning, motorists whizzing up West Twenty-third street, on which the Guadalupe parochial school is located, were halted by a patrol member bearing the sign aloft as he shepherded groups of pupils across the highway in safety.

"WE JUST got tired of having to wait for a vacant space between cars and then dashing across," said young Manuel.

"Lots of the kids, especially the little ones, have been real scared by cars that wouldn't stop for them."

Sister Mary Evarista, principal of the school which has an enrollment of about 270, said the situation has grown increasingly serious in recent months and that the children were "pretty worked up."

Pontiff Misses Anniversary Mass

Vatican City—(NC)—For the first time in the 14 years of his pontificate the throne of Pope Pius XII in the Sistine chapel was vacant as the solemn Pontifical Mass marking the anniversary of his coronation as Pope was offered here.

The first Cardinal the Pope elevated to the purple offered the Mass, as is customary. He is His Eminence Beneditto Cardinal Aloisi Masella, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments.

Six of the 15 Cardinals participating were from those the Pope had created at the recent consistory.

Pope Pius XII who ascended the throne of St. Peter 14 years ago did not ascend the throne in the Sistine chapel, but remained in his apartment a few hundred yards distant from the chapel. It was his recent illness which explained his absence.

He is obviously well on the way to recovery again, even if his doctor did not permit him to risk several changes in temperature and possible drafts in the Sistine chapel.

Indecent Literature Manchester, N. H.—(RNS)—A united community campaign against indecent literature was proposed here by the League of the Sacred Heart of St. George Roman Catholic parish.

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Gideon Bible Distribution In Public Schools Upheld

Hackensack, N. J.—(RNS)—A Superior Court judge here ruled that the Rutherford, N. J., board of education would violate no constitutional rights by distributing Gideon Bibles on a voluntary basis in the public schools.

Judge J. Wallace Leyden added, however, that he considered it "bad policy" for a school board to authorize such distribution.

He denied a request, originated by Roman Catholic and Jewish parents, for a permanent injunction prohibiting Rutherford school officials from passing out the Bibles.

BUT JUDGE Leyden continued in effect a temporary restraining order pending the outcome of an appeal from his decision. Leo Pfeffer, assistant general counsel to the American Jewish Congress, said he would appeal to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.

The Rutherford case, believed to be the first court test of the legality of Bible distribution in the public schools, aroused wide interest because of the Gideons' current drive to give Bibles to school children in many parts of the country.

Late in 1951 the Rutherford board approved a Gideon proposal to dispense Scriptures to children whose parents signed a form requesting the Bible. Signed forms were presented by 615 children.

A temporary injunction preventing the distribution was obtained in a suit started by two Augsburg, West Germany — (RNS) — A Catholic weekly here has proposed that volunteers be permitted to go to the Soviet Union as replacements for German prisoners-of-war still held there.

"Protests, memoranda and petitions cannot liberate the prisoners," said the Catholic organ, Misan in der Zeit (Misan in the Times). "Primitive cruelty can only be overcome by a passionate self-sacrifice. We must be capable of a true crusade of love."

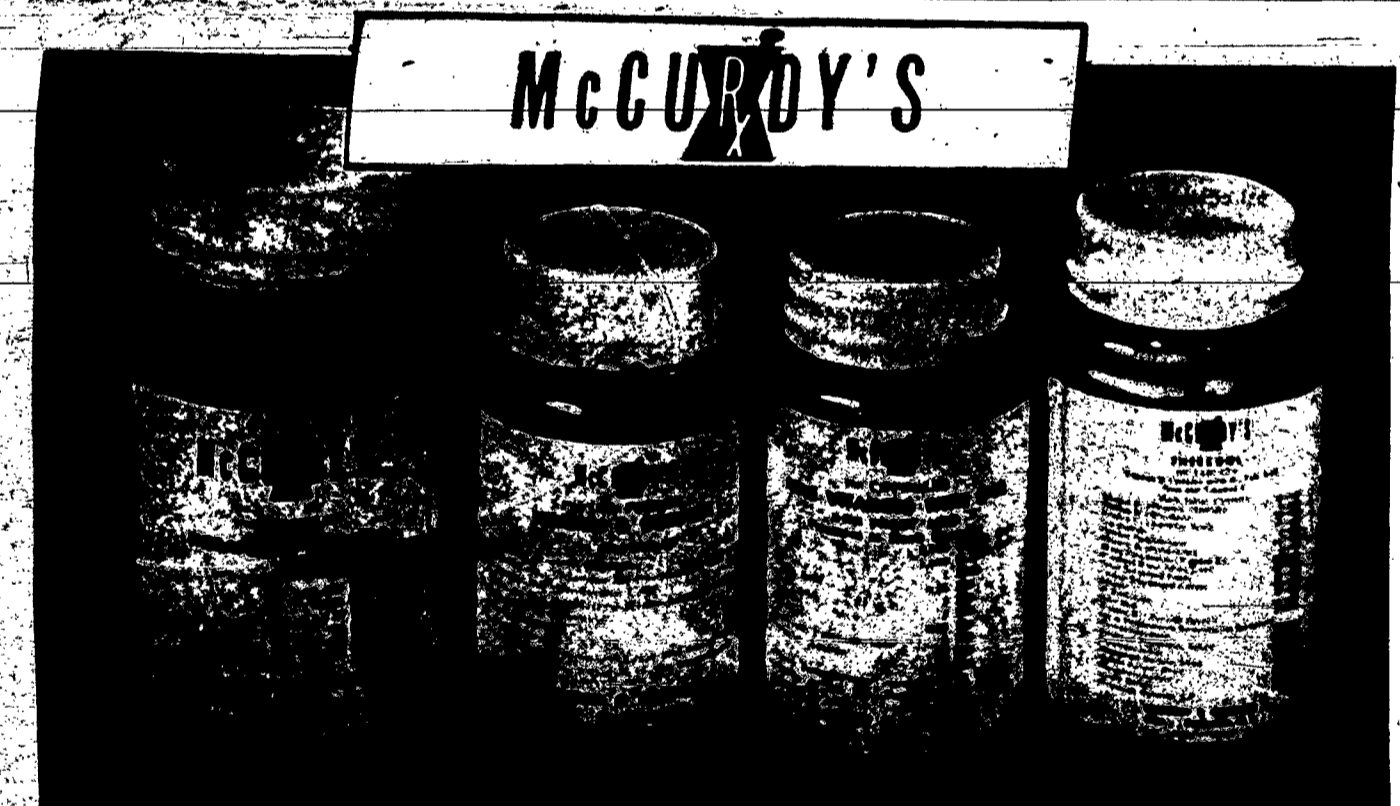
The weekly said it must be assumed that the German POW's are being retained by the Soviet Union "largely for economic reasons."

Paper Proposes Volunteers Replace POWs in Russia

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