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Teacher Group Wants All Children In Public Schools

(Continued from Page 1)

the report's doctrinaire assertions about democracy and the American way," he said. "They will resist every effort of the organized public school profession to seek laws that would force all children to attend public schools.

He predicted that Catholic educators and parents will continue, now as before, to build and to expand their flourishing private school system. They will not be intimidated by assertions that their devotion to private education makes them less American than their neighbors who favor public education for their children.

"We are convinced," he said, "that any plan to force all children into a common school is a serious threat to the future welfare of our nation. Indeed, the very best safeguard against totalitarianism in our land is variety, diversity, and independence of schooling."

"WE KNOW FROM experience," Monsignor Hochwalt stated, "that the Policies Commission's proposal does not reflect the thinking of all the public school administrators with whom Catholic teachers and administrators have been associated in projects for the common good of all school children in both public and private schools. Until now these common efforts represented a sincere desire on the part of people with different philosophies of education to work for the greatest good of American education as a whole," he stated.

"It is to be hoped that the Policies Commission's ill advised document will not interfere with this traditional practice in American education," he concluded.

In the Oregon School Case, decided on June 1, 1935, the Supreme Court held the Oregon anti-private school Act of 1922 to be unconstitutional.

THE OREGON LAW required all children between the ages of eight and 16 years—with very limited exceptions—to attend the public schools. The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and the Hill Military Academy obtained an injunction restraining the State from enforcing this law. The Supreme Court upheld this injunction and reaffirmed the right of parents to direct the education of their children.

"The meaning of this momentous decision for education," says the booklet of the Educational Policies Commission, "has been a subject of debate almost from the moment it was handed down. There seems little doubt," the report claims, "but that most citizens and educators took it to mean that the vast majority of American children would continue to attend public schools—as was then the case—but that the way would be open for those who so desired to attend private institutions.

"On the other hand, the decision has been followed by a substantial expansion of private—particularly church-regulated—school facilities," the report observes.

MILLION PENNIES FOR SCHOOL

Milwaukee — More than a million pennies were collected by students at Pius XI high school here in a fund drive for an addition to their school. Shown with some of the 205 bags holding the money are two of the school's pupils: Mary Pabst, 15, and Gerald Kspsprzak, 14. Each bag contained 4,970 pennies and weighed 35 pounds. The pupils raised all of the money themselves, mostly in door-to-door solicitations. A highlight of the campaign was a "Penny Pinchers' Ball" held in the school gymnasium. (RNS Photo)

Lottery Case

Retired DA Still Pushes Charges Against Nun

Merced, Calif. — (NC) — Don C. Mayes, former District Attorney here, has written to the Attorney General of California, asking that a special prosecutor be appointed to complete handling of his charges against Sister Mary Peter, principal of Our Lady of Mercy school in this city.

MR. MAYES, who left office early this month, told the Attorney General he felt that since the case is a controversial one, it would be unfair to a new District Attorney to get involved in such a matter during his first days in office.

Earlier, Mr. Mayes had announced that he would welcome appointment as a special prosecutor, but he did not mention himself in the letter to Attorney General Edmund Brown.

Sister Mary Peter was charged on two counts by Mr. Mayes late last October. The violations were: contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile, and selling lottery tickets.

HE STARTED his court action against the nun after being approached by a 12-year-old boy from the school who was selling tickets on a building fund for a retreat house in Santa Barbara, Calif. The tickets called for donations of $1 each for prizes, including two 1955 model cars.

The "contributing" charge was thrown out for lack of evidence in a preliminary hearing in the Merced Justice Court.

Mr. Mayes appealed the ruling, made by Justice Flossie Lobo, to the Superior Court. The higher court has yet to rule on the appeal.

LAWYERS here in Merced have expressed doubt that a magistrate's dismissal in a preliminary hearing is subject to appeal to the Superior Court.

The charge against the nun of violating the lottery law of this state is still awaiting action in the Merced Justice Court. A ruling there by Justice Lobo has declared no action would be taken until the appeal to the Superior Court is settled.

Merced County's new District Attorney is Stephen P. Glavin.

Bishop Wright

Terms Marriage Vow An 'Instrument To Eternity'

Cleveland — (NC) — Terming the marriage vow an "instrument to eternity," Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester urged more thought on marriage as a positive means to sanctification and less emphasis on its social and economic aspects.

The Massachusetts prelate, who addressed a meeting of the Serra club here to which wives of the members were invited, declared that "the wife is almost as responsible for her husband's salvation as she is for her own.

"While common interests of a temporal and social kind can be powerful forces in stabilizing marriage," the Bishop said, "none of these can arrest the appalling disintegration of modern marriages, until the sacramental, spiritual and, therefore, eternal implications of marriage are understood and accepted.

"PSYCHIATRY, social case work and like forces," he pointed out, "can help repair damaged marriage relationships, but there is nothing on which these can build and nothing left to repair unless the couple understand and accept the profoundly spiritual and sacramental relationship which is the cornerstone of any marriage apable of salvation."

"Marriage," the Bishop said, "involves common prospects for eternity and a common spiritual destiny as well as mere common property and temporal interests.

"The familiar phrase, 'the power of women' often loses sight of the enormous intellectual and spiritual power wielded by a woman who understands she is almost as responsible for her husband's salvation as she is for her own."

THE BISHOP was in Cleveland for a visit with his brother, Robert, who is merchandise manager for a department store here.

Choirs Told: Use Easy Church Music

Union City, N.J. — (NC) — Ordinary parish choirs should be given simpler material to sing, because "the more ornate and operatic a Mass, the more pronounced the flaws of an amateur choir will sound," according to the music critic of the Washington Post.

Writing in the current issue of The Sign, critic Paul Hume asserts that "in far too many churches throughout the country, attendance at High Mass ranges from a mere passive distraction to an occasion of sin. It all depends on the choir . . ."

Asserting that the average parish choir isn't expected to produce results of professional quality, he adds: "But the unpleasant fact of the matter is that too many choirs in too many parishes are allowed to turn in performances totally unacceptable by any standards at all—professional, amateur, or beginners' glee club."

THE KEY TO the whole problem, says Mr. Hume, is the choir director-organist—"on him the music of the parish will stand or will fall, usually with a dull thud." The prominent critic goes on to say:

"The conservatories and college music departments of this country are bursting at the seams with talented graduates who would love to supplement their incomes with a church position. The trick is for the pastor to find one, pay him a decent salary, give him a free hand, and back him up in any ensuing controversy."

As for what constitutes a good choir director, Mr. Hume gives three specifications:

1. "He must know, through sufficient study, how to play the organ. The notion that any parishioner who has had a few years piano training can automatically qualify as an organist is indeed a quaint and pathetic one."

2. **HE MUST** be thoroughly familiar with the repertoire of Church music—the best repertoire available for every occasion on which his services will be required."

3. "He must be familiar with the special tricks of training amateur singers, particularly if a large percentage of his choir does not sight-read music."

Mr. Hume also recommends injecting a little new blood as "one of the best ways to pep up a choir," and he adds:

"The real tragedy of the deficient choir is that it is so unnecessary. Our choirs should be packed with people who learned to know and sing the best Church music at the same time they were learning multiplication tables and geography."

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CATHOLIC QUIZ

Evolution
Confession

Do Catholics have to believe that God set two ready-made people on the earth to start the human race or may we believe in evolution?

Catholics may believe anything science can prove. There is, as yet, no scientific proof that man evolved from lower forms and it is impossible that a spiritual soul could ever evolve from a mere material substance. We know from Scripture that God created the human soul directly. Whether or not the human body evolved from lower forms, we have no certain knowledge from either Scripture or science.

Are there religious orders in any non-Catholic churches?

Yes. The Orthodox churches have monks and nuns who observe a strict cloistered and penitent life. There are communities of Episcopalians who follow the Franciscan rule, others who observe the Benedictine monastic rule. Recently, a Methodist group was organized similar to our Third Orders. Most of these non-Catholic groups wear a distinctive religious garb. We are not aware of any of these as established in this area.

Is it better to go to confession to a priest who knows you or go to a priest who doesn't?

That is entirely up to your own personal preference. Spiritual writers tell us that it is a good idea to go regularly to the priest who best helps us advance in virtue. Whether he knows the penitent personally or not doesn't matter.

The priest will never use any information you confess in any way and should you have some serious sin to mention, the priest will be happy that you repent of it and desire reconcilliation with God. In matters of confession, the Church leaves it up to the penitent to choose any priest the penitent wants.

Is it a sin for Catholics to read the books and articles written by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale?

Catholics ordinarily ought not to read publications on religious topics unless written by Catholics. Many of Dr. Peale's topics are merely common-sense human relationships and as such Catholics commit no sin in reading his opinions. Catholics would do better to read the many excellent Catholic books and magazines which permeate human problems with solutions guided by divine faith as well as human ingenuity.

Hospital Patients Get New Bibles

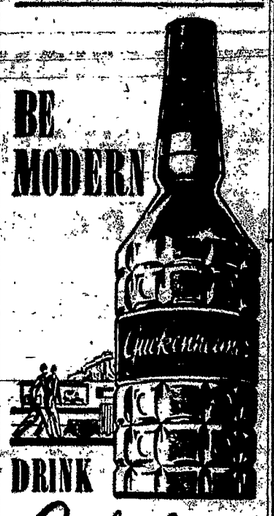
Little Rock, Ark. — (RNS) — The new St. Vincent's Infirmary here has received 225 leather-bound volumes of the Roman Catholic edition of the Bible.

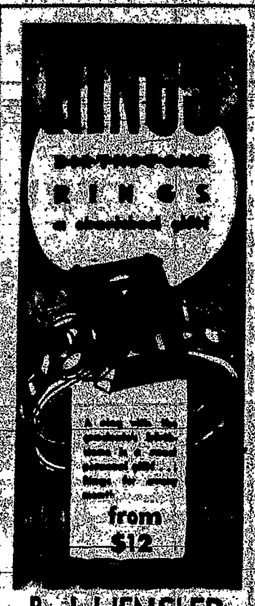
Msgr. Francis A. Allen, pastor of Holy Souls Parish here, initiated the idea of making the scriptures available to each patient and raised the funds for the project.

Sister Michaella, superior of the infirmary, said copies of the Bible also have been placed in the emergency rooms, the lobby and the medical library.

Observes Jubilee

Milan — (NC) — Father Augustine Gemelli, O.F.M., rector of the Catholic University of Milan, has observed his 50th anniversary as a priest.





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