

# Active Role In Civic Affairs Urged For American Catholics

Toledo, O. — (NC) — Catholics must participate more fully in citizens' meetings of all kinds and at all levels if they are to have a real impact on the thinking and actions of society.

This is particularly true in the area of public education, Charles J. McNeill, president of the Catholic Press Association, counseled in an address to the Arts and Forum Series of Mary Mansse College here.

"If we aren't satisfied with public education as we find it — and we aren't — we certainly can't expect to change it much by complaining or condemning. What we must do is to seize every opportunity we have, as parents and citizens, to improve our nation's schools.

"Instead of looking on the public schools as their schools, we need to realize that both the parochial and the public schools are 'ours.' We have an interest in them, and



Toledo — (NC) — Catholic Press Association President Charles J. McNeill, who stressed importance of Catholics taking part in civic affairs at a lecture here in Mary Mansse College, is interviewed by Darlene Noll, Mary Mansse student.

I think we have a real responsibility to do everything we can to improve them," said Mr. McNeill.

The Catholic's obligation to take an interest in public school affairs stems from the fact that these institutions are conducted by government units, he said.

"We have every right to use our influence as citizens to guide the destinies of our public schools, insofar as we can.

"Though we want our children to get the kind of complete education that can be given only in our thoroughly Catholic schools, I think we have a real obligation to use our good influence on the public schools, which after all are training 85 out of every 100 American boys and girls, including millions of Catholic children for whom the parochial schools have no room," Mr. McNeill said.

# State Department

## China Reds Hold 13 Americans As 'Political Hostages'

Washington — (NC) — Communist China has again been accused by the State Department of holding 13 United States citizens in jail as "political hostages."

Among the 13 citizens are Bishop Ambrose Pinger of Cheyenne and seven American priests. THE STATE Department's charge was made in answer to a communist threat that China would break off the negotiations now being conducted in Geneva between U.S. and Chinese envoys if the talks continued to be "dragged out."

Bishop Pinger, a native of Lindsay, Neb., and Father Eugene Gross, O.F.M., of Omaha, are being held in Tientsin. Jailed Shanghai are Jesuit Fathers John Clifford of San Francisco; John Hoyle of Glendale, Calif.; Charles McCarry of San Francisco and Thomas Phillips of Butte, Mont. Also in prison in Shanghai are Father Joseph McCormack, M.M., of New York City, and Father Cyril Wagner, O.S.A., of Pittsburgh.

Bishop James E. Walsh, M.M., executive secretary of the suppressed Catholic Central Bureau in Shanghai, is not in jail, but his activities have been restricted. The communists have stated that he is free to leave China, but Bishop Walsh, a native of Cumberland, Md., says he wants to remain until he is expelled.

THE REV. JOSEPH P. MCCORMACK, M.M., now in a Red Shanghai prison, is the brother of Edward McCormack of 415 E. Main St., Palmyra.

Mr. McCormack was informed by Henry King news release in December that his priest-brother had been publicly tried at Shanghai and sentenced to five years in prison.

Father McCormack, 62, was arrested in 1953 in Shanghai. No charges against him were made public at that time.

A case of Rosococoman, Ireland, the missioner came to the U.S. in 1938 to enter Maryknoll. He was ordained in 1934 and offered his first Mass in St. Dominic's Church, Shortsville. The following year he left for missionary work in Manchuria.

He last visited his brother Edward in 1944 while on a trip to the U.S. The same year he returned to Manchuria, but Communist army advances forced his withdrawal into South China and finally Shanghai where he was arrested.

## General Gruenther Laetare Medalist

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HE CONCEDED that the vast majority of dating will not result in courtship or marriage. But he warned that "no boy or girl today marries a person whom he or she did not first date."

"The family," he added, "can influence or control dating more easily than it can the ultimate choice of a marital partner."

Dr. Kane called it "ironical" that in the past when parents had greater influence and control over courtship and marital choice there was less need of it. Today, he asserted, when parents have much less influence and control, there is a greater need of it.

YOUNG PEOPLE today, Dr. Kane declared, have the greatest freedom of choice in marital partners, but "compensatorily" less knowledge about how to exercise such freedom in an intelligent way.

He deplored the attitude which regards it as "highly undemocratic" and consequently highly reprehensible for Church, family or friends to try to influence or interfere in any way.

The important thing, Dr. Kane emphasized, is for this "interference" to take place before actual marriage is in the offing.

When parents step in to "forbid" a marriage, he cautioned, their efforts are usually too late, the approach is negative, the threats render the father or mother even more desirable and society is apt to frown upon the interference as "wholly un-American."

"Parents must begin educating their children for marriage long before they ever have their first date," Dr. Kane declared. "When the age for dating arrives, if parents have helped construct a satisfying and adequate picture of the ideal mate, a large part of their task has been accomplished."

# THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

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## Faith Explained To Thousands In State

### Oklahoma Catholics Hold 'Open House' In Churches For Non-Catholic Neighbors

Oklahoma City — (NC) — Oklahoma's state-wide "open house" proved to be a tremendous success, according to reports from pastors in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa dioceses.

A hundred of the state's 180 churches and missions reported that 17,112 non-Catholic visited Catholic churches at the open house which was held in every Catholic church in the diocese as the culmination of "Operation Understanding."

In it, 15,000 Catholics in the state sought to call on every home in Oklahoma to invite their churches to promote a better understanding of the Catholic religion.

The total number of visitors is expected to reach 25,000 when all reports are turned in.

VISIONS — DURING the open house were witnessed the doors of the church by Catholic men and women. They were taken inside where trained laymen explained the holy water, fonts, the Stations of the Cross, the confessional, the altar, candles, windows and the statues.

Then in groups of about 30 they were taken into the sacristy where a priest explained the Mass, the missal and the altar. Next stop was the sacristy where a layman or a sister explained the vestments and the silk linens.

After leaving the church they were taken to the convents and escorted through the Sisters' home and finally to the school or parish hall where refreshments were served.

CRADLES BEGAN arriving at many churches a half hour before the scheduled starting time. Many remained after the evening closing time. Some priests spent more than four hours constantly talking to the non-Catholic visitors. The visitors listened with rapt attention. Some asked questions. All were polite.

Visitors were given literature upon leaving and were invited to attend the three forums to be held as an aftermath of the open house. Priests at the forums will explain the Catholic religion more fully and will extend an invitation to instruction classes for those who are interested in learning still more about the Faith.

All age groups were seen at the open house, from babies in arms to aged men and women. Many ministers were present, as well as entire Sunday school classes from non-Catholic denominations. It was the first time that many of them had ever set foot inside a Catholic church.

The house-to-house campaign to invite the non-Catholic to the open house was held two weeks before when printed invitations were given to each home by the visiting Catholic pair.

Large advertisements were printed in the city newspapers and Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, appeared on many more television stations in the state in inviting viewers in his friendly manner to attend the open house "to obtain a better understanding of your Catholic neighbors."

THE FIRE occurred during a national campaign to raise \$500,000 for construction of a new novitiate. The building destroyed was an 85-room rambling telephone structure, formerly in the Andrew Carnegie estate. Built in 1894, it was purchased by the diocese in 1922.

Have your Diamond Ring in a new style mounting! Wilbur S. Thomas, Jeweler, 911 Main St., Rochester, N.Y.

Our service includes flowers by wire anywhere. And a special rate arranged in appreciation of your business. Call for details to prolong their beauty. At Main Street, 911 Main St., Rochester, N.Y.

Fr. Rigney Masked Prayer In Prison

Chapter 6 of Chicago Priest's Own Story on Page 5.

## Time Grants To Colleges Aid Tuition

New York — (NC) — Nine Catholic colleges and universities have been allocated grants totaling \$2,718,000 from Time Magazine, Inc. to match regular tuition paid by employees of the publishing concern, it was announced here.

The CATHOLIC schools were among 30 institutions of higher learning which received a total of \$23.62.

Under the system, known as the tuition refund plan, Time, Inc., contributes a sum matching total tuition paid by company employees attending school.

CATHOLIC recipients of the funds are John Carroll University, Cleveland, \$97; Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., \$65; DePaul University, Chicago, \$47; Fordham University, \$313; Loyola University, Chicago, \$495; Manhattan College, \$40; St. John's University, Brooklyn, \$42; St. Peter's College, Jersey City, \$18; and Seton Hall University, South Orange, N. J., \$116.40.

In announcing the grants, Roy E. Larsen, president of Time, Inc., said that tuition at non-profit institutions "generally amounts to only 40% to 60% of the real cost of education."

The tuition refund plan is an attempt to reimburse colleges "for the extra cost of employee instruction not covered by regular tuition fees," he said.

never thought of becoming a religious man, even though I was born and brought up a Catholic.

HE WAS graduated in 1927 as a doctor of medicine from the Royal Malta University, but student politics availed him into extreme socialist thinking. He joined the Workers' Labor Party and was elected Finance Minister of Malta, British island colony in the Mediterranean.

In 1950 he was re-elected to the post, but resigned immediately to join the Capuchin Fathers. "The government was stunned and the country was utterly surprised," said Father Ferdinand, "I was No. 2 in the government at the time. A year before I had

DISPENSATION For March 17

His Excellency Bishop Kearney has dispensed the faithful of the Diocese of Rochester from the laws of fast and abstinence on Saturday, March 17, Feast of St. Patrick.

'We'll See You In U.S.'

Reds Plan To Rule World Says Ousted China Priest

Valletta City — (NC) — Communists plan to conquer the United States and the rest of the world, a veteran missionary of 22 years in China told members of the American Club of Rome.

Magr. John Romaniello, M.M., told the group that after he had been subjected to 22 months of house arrest in China, two Red soldiers had put him on a train and shouted, "We'll see you in the United States." And they meant it, said the priest.

The Maryknoll missionary said communist philosophy can be summed up simply: "There's no God, there's no soul, human beings are merely an assembly to be used by the State."

Magr. Romaniello, ordained in 1928, was assigned to the Maryknoll missions in China, where he remained until his expulsion.

The missionary's experiences in China will be published soon in a book entitled "Bird of Snow."



WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NC) — Martin H. Work, (right) executive director of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, and Ed. Dowdy, (left) member of the House of Representatives, are seen in a meeting. Mr. Work is on the right, Mr. Dowdy on the left. They are seen in a meeting with the Rev. Joseph P. McCormack, M.M., (center) who is the brother of Edward McCormack of 415 E. Main St., Palmyra.

## Congress Gets Bill To Ban Obscenity From U. S. Mails

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Bills to give the Postmaster General the right to impound obscene material sent through the mails were introduced in the House by Reps. John Dowdy (D-Tex.) and Edward H. Rees (R-Kans.).

The measure also would give the Postmaster General authority to impound gambling devices and "other unfit materials" that he finds in the mails.

MR. DOWDY is chairman of the special subcommittee that has been studying the problem of obscenity in the mails, and Rep. Rees is the ranking Republican member.

The bipartisan measure is expected to be reported to the floor shortly and will have the full support of the Administration.

Although the postal service is by no means the only avenue for distributing salacious material, it is the most direct and the most effective. It said they should be encouraged and receive support and cooperation from governmental agencies and the general public.

The group recommended sharply increased penalties for violators of obscenity statutes and broader federal laws to curb the transportation of objectionable publications.

OFFICIAL RECORDS of the Post Office Department show that arrests for postal crimes reached an all-time high last year, Mr. Dowdy said, with the highest increase in arrests for mailing obscene and other unfit matter.

He said arrests for mailing obscene, extorts, and other unprofitable matter increased by 54 per cent in just one year, and that for using the mails to defraud by nearly 50 per cent.

Local Drives Urged Against Obscenity

Albany, N. Y. — (RNS) — The Joint Legislative Committee on Offensive and Obscene Material called here for more local campaigns against pornography.

In its annual report to the Legislature, the committee, headed by Assemblyman James A. Fitzpatrick (R-Fulton) declared that local campaigns had been effective. It said they should be encouraged and receive support and cooperation from governmental agencies and the general public.

The Protestant pilgrim is Mrs. Vincent Lane, a former president of the Women's Chamber of Commerce here, who has been in failing health since 1929. She decided to go to the shrine after reading a book on Lourdes written by a Protestant.

WHILE MRS. LANE is at the shrine a continuous vigil of prayer is being conducted by members of the Washington Avenue church to which she belongs.

The Methodists opened their services to the public so that Mrs. Lane's friends of other denominations could participate. Meanwhile, a special prayer service was held for her by members of the Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Evangelical prayers for Mrs. Lane's recovery also are being held in homes throughout the city. In addition, Catholic women are offering special prayers of intercession for her to Our Lady of Lourdes.

MRS. LANE arranged her trip to Lourdes through the Catholic Travel Bureau of New York with the help of Mrs. Loraine McCormack, a Catholic.

That was after she had read the book, "The Miracle of Lourdes" by Ruth Cannon who reported many cures of Protestants as well as Catholics at the shrine.

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When parents step in to "forbid" a marriage, he cautioned, their efforts are usually too late, the approach is negative, the threats render the father or mother even more desirable and society is apt to frown upon the interference as "wholly un-American."

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**LAST WEEK'S PAID CIRCULATION**

**53,516**

Our service includes flowers by wire anywhere. And a special rate arranged in appreciation of your business. Call for details to prolong their beauty. At Main Street, 911 Main St., Rochester, N.Y.

Have your Diamond Ring in a new style mounting! Wilbur S. Thomas, Jeweler, 911 Main St., Rochester, N.Y.

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**Shift To Suburbs Calls For Churches**

New York — (RNS) — At least 70,000 new suburban churches may have to be built in the next 20 years as a result of the increasing population shift, according to the Bulletin of the American Association of Fundraising Councils.

The Bulletin cited estimates that the suburban population, which now stands at 45,000,000, will reach 85,000,000 by 1975.

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