

Theology Study Urged For Laity

Dublin — (RNS) — Irish Catholics were told here by John Cardinal D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, that they should study theology so as to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Faith.

Addressing the annual meeting of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, he said, "I am afraid that many of our Catholic laity have the mistaken idea that theology is the exclusive domain of the priest."

"Theology is for every man," Cardinal D'Alton stressed. "It supplies the key to the meaning of life. It is the study of God, of God's revelation about Himself, about His relations with mankind, about His purpose in creating us, and the destiny life has in store for us, if we are faithful to His commandments."

THE CARDINAL said the Catholic catechism is "in effect, a compendium of theology," but Catholics should not be content with that but seek to deepen their knowledge of the Faith as the years go on.

"While the catechism teaches us the essentials," he explained, "it does not always provide the solution of the difficulties that may occur when we set out to apply Catholic principles to the problems arising in public or private life. The Church has to exercise unceasing vigilance in defense of the Faith entrusted to her keeping. Old controversies have died down, but new ones are constantly emerging."

Cardinal D'Alton cited especially "the claims of some modern states to control every department of human life." He said this has "constituted the greatest challenge to the Church as guardian and interpreter of Divine Revelation."

"There are some who would indignantly repudiate the charge of totalitarianism," he said, "but yet wish to limit seriously the scope and relevance of Catholic teaching. In particular, they would relegate Catholic social teaching to the economic or political sphere and thus withdraw it from the Church."

He added that they should

"realize especially that the individual and the family have been endowed by God with rights which no earthly power may violate."

India Court Upholds Bishop In Red Warning

Enakulam — (NC) — The Travancore-Cochin state high court has turned down a defeated leftist candidate's contention that Church warnings against him constituted "illegal coercion of voters."

The court rejected a petition filed by Mathai Manjuran, leader of the Marxist Kerala Socialist Party, appealing against an earlier judgment of the state's election tribunal.

The tribunal held that Archbishop Joseph Atipetty of Verapoly had not violated India's election rules by warning Catholics of Narakal, Mr. Manjuran's constituency, against supporting procommunist candidates.

The law does not oppose "fair exertion of influence" by bishops who are also citizens, the tribunal declared.

Mr. Manjuran, who lost the election to a Jacobite Christian candidate, challenged this verdict in a writ petition before a high court bench headed by a Catholic judge, Joseph Vithayathil.

Farmer Feeds Mystical Body, Says Nun

Yakteen, S.D. — "Do we speak of the dignity of farming? Are we aware of the farmer's contribution as he feeds the Mystical Body of Christ? Do we make the children thrill with the thought that it is the wheat and grapes grown by some farmer that become the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sac-



CARDINAL TISSERANT
Cardinal Visits Fatima's Lucy

Colombia, Portugal — (NC) — His Eminence Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, Dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals, who came to Portugal for ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the so-called miracle of the sun at Fatima interviewed Sister Lucia de Jesus dos Santos, the only survivor of the three children to whom Our Lady appeared at Fatima.

Cardinal Tisserant offered Mass at Coimbra's Carmelite convent of St. Theresa, where Sister Lucia resides. After his Mass, the Cardinal, and Archbishop Ernesto Sena de Oliveira, Bishop of Coimbra, talked with Sister Lucia.

Algier Rebels Machine Gun Kidnapped Nun

Algiers — (RNS) — A French Catholic nun who was kidnapped by Algerian rebels in the Akbou region of Kabylia last September has been found dead the Algiers Radio reported.

She was Sister Pierre-Fourier, a member of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa (White Sisters), who had been in Algeria for 25 years.

The Superior of the White Sisters has reported that Sister Pierre-Fourier was not killed deliberately, but accidentally, during the fighting between rebel troops and the French military detachment.

HER BODY was recovered after another White Sister, Sister Francoise Solane, a Canadian who had been abducted at the same time, was discovered alive near Ichil-Ail, east of Algiers.

In St. George de Beauce, Quebec, the parents of Sister Francoise, Mr. and Mrs. Francois Dube, said they had received a cable stating that she was free and well. "The good Lord must have heard our prayers," Mrs. Dube exclaimed on hearing the news.

Although in a state of prostration, Sister Francoise was able to report that her companion had been killed. A search was made and the dead nun's body recovered. It was found riddled with machine gun bullets.

Less than two weeks after their abduction, the nuns had sent a message to their Mother Superior saying that they had been seized by rebels to give medical care to "sick people" in the mountains, and would return shortly to their mission.



Children Battle Bad Reading

Vancouver — (NC) — Five children, representing five different races — Negro, Chinese, Occidental, American Indian, and East Indian — tell Archbishop William Mark Duke, of Vancouver, British Columbia, they promise to avoid reading crime comics, bad comics and bad books. 2500 children made the same promise in a Holy Childhood Day Rally in Vancouver, launching Holy Childhood Association's national campaign against indecent literature. Father James P. Leonard, at left, is national director of the association.

'Don't Interfere' Mother-Laws Told

Mexico City — (RNS) — Archbishop Miguel Dario y Miranda of Mexico has advised mothers-in-law to "stay out of your children's marriages and let the young people work out their own affairs."

He gave the advice at the opening here of a Church-sponsored campaign aimed at strengthening Christian marriage and combatting the modern tendency to look upon divorce as a solution to marital problems.

"Of all the problems that make marriage uneasy," he said, "one of the most severe is that of interference by a beloved parent, on the one side or the other."

"Parents — and mothers especially," he exhorted, "show your love and faith in your children by removing yourself from their difficulties. Young people who marry love each other in the beginning. That love should be made stronger and stronger, and never in any way challenged by other loves."

Bombay Blocks Birth Control Fund Aid

Bombay, India — (NC) — Authorities here have taken a firm stand against attempts by the Indian central government to extend its birth-control program to state territory.

A SPOKESMAN for the Bombay state administration said that the government had turned down financial grants offered by central authorities earmarked for opening "family planning" centers in Bombay state.

The spokesman explained that the action arose from the Bombay government's opposition to "family planning through artificial methods" such as contraceptives.

The government believes in "strong, indissoluble Christian family planning through self-control," the spokesman declared.

Health Said Key Factor To Better Living

Vatican City — (NC) — Improving people's health is one of the most important factors to be considered in raising their standard of living, His Holiness Pope Pius XII told members of the Committee for Public Health of the Union for Western Europe.

EVEN ATOMIC science has made a contribution to this important work by using atomic material in the fight against cancer, he said. Modern science has found uses for radioactive isotopes and instruments of radiotherapy in the preservation of good health.

All governments, the Pope observed, have tried to do what they could to improve their people's health. All this is progress, he added, which lends itself to the establishment of greater international concord and harmony.

The Pontiff recalled that the Union of Western Europe, which was created in Paris in 1954, provided for economic, social and cultural collaboration between member countries.

The Committee for Public Health, he said, played an important part in the fulfillment of the union's general program. He added that its success was a particular source of pleasure for him personally, especially where its work was inspired by humanitarian feelings.

Hungarian Bishops Warn On Abortion

Budapest — (RNS) — A warning that abortion is "a great sin," no matter what social reasons are advanced as an excuse, was sounded by the Hungarian Bishops of Roman Catholic Bishops in a pastoral letter published here.

"Abortion is so great a sin," the pastoral said, "that the Church excommunicates those who perpetrate it — both the parent, and everybody who has taken an active part in it."

Text of the bishops' pastoral appeared in *Katholikus Szó* (Catholic Voice), an official ecclesiastical weekly. Abortion has been forbidden by the civil authorities but in some areas facilities reportedly have been offered to prospective mothers living under difficult social conditions.

The pastoral cautioned that "it is absolutely forbidden by the Church to commit sin in order that we should ease our economic conditions of life."

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BOMETICK FORMAN'S THIRD FLOOR

Anglicans Defer Debate On Easing Divorce Laws

London — (NC) — The Church of England has postponed for six months any decision on whether divorced persons should be readmitted to the sacraments and what sort of blessing if any, should be given divorced persons who re-marry.

OFFICIALLY, the Anglican Church does not recognize divorce, but it is faced with a steady increase of divorced people among its members. The bishops of the conference of the Canterbury province accepted a recommendation that the clergy pray for and with divorced people privately, but that there are to be no public services.

The "lower house" of the conference, however, composed of non-bishop members of the clergy, postponed a vote on whether divorced persons who re-marry should be allowed to receive the sacraments.

The decision of the bishops, therefore, was shelved until a decision had been reached on this second point regarding the participation of remarried divorced persons in the sacraments.

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FORMAN'S SECOND FLOOR

Family Farm Bulwark Of Faith

Sioux Falls, S.D. — (RNS) — The executive committee of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, in a statement here, said that "undesirable forces" are threatening the family farm, which it described as a "vital American institution."

The committee described the "family farm" as the "seed from which the American way of life, the Constitution and the law of the United States took root."

"Agreement has been universal that it is a bulwark of Christianity and democracy, as well as the most efficient way of farming," the statement said. "Communities in which family farms predominate are characterized by an equality of opportunity and position, by a recognition of the rights and dignity of persons and by emphasis upon individual initiative and responsibility. This is the atmosphere in which wholesome family life, Christian ideals and democratic principles thrive best."

New York Mayor At Home Jubilee

New York — (NC) — Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York was the guest speaker at a luncheon held here in honor of the 25th anniversary of St. Patrick's Home for the Aged in the Bronx.

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