

Prelate Deplores Teenage Practice Of 'Going Steady'

New Orleans — (NC) — The seriousness of the "going steady" practice among young boys and girls was emphasized in an address here by New Orleans Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel.

The prelate told the Teachers Institute of the archdiocesan school system that something may have to be done, even to the point of forbidding association of boys and girls in grade and high schools, in an effort to break up the practice.

"IT IS A DANGER to the entire social structure of our generation," the Archbishop said. "It looks innocent enough in the beginning but may grow into very considerable proportions."

"I wonder if we are not allowing children to anticipate maturity," the prelate continued. "There was a time when 18 or even 21 was considered mature. Now it is 13 to 14. The result is we have a sort of changed social life bound to effect this generation. There is a loose conception of family unity, in the home and outside the home, with unfortunate consequences."

"Young people are left to themselves" in the supervision of parents, he said. "Parents are beginning to feel that 13 and 14-year-old children are able to bear their own responsibilities and that they know what is wrong and what is permissible. A stronger stand must be taken on the practices that have grown up."

Archbishop Rummel said that these days "we speak rather freely of boy friends and girl friends." "A boy is unhappy if he hasn't a girl he can call his own," the Archbishop stated. "A girl is even more unhappy if she hasn't a boy she can call exclusively her own. They must see each other at the homes of parents or outside the homes."

"When a boy and girl are out

alone in an automobile anything can happen," he said and added, "Bad stories could be learned from the chancery."

"A girl who has not a steady may be scorned. Most boys think they can have a girl any time. How some parents meet their sons' expenses on their budgets I don't know. It runs into money."

"WE MAY HAVE to reach the point of forbidding association of boys and girls in grade schools and high schools," the Archbishop added. Twelve and 14-year-old marriages is not our code of civilization yet. Even those in high school are not physically or morally prepared for marriage."

"We have come to the point at which something has to be done. It will have to be a strong appeal to not only teachers but also to parents," the Archbishop stated.

Iowa Ruling Cuts Nun-Teacher Ranks

Dubuque, Iowa — (NC) — The number of Sisters available to teach in Iowa's parochial schools will be reduced during the next few years as a result of a ruling issued by the Iowa Department of Public Instruction.

Under its provisions, all teachers, including those instructing children under 10 years of age, must possess a bachelors degree by 1970.

Some parochial schools in the Dubuque archdiocese have already been notified by religious orders that the number of teachers will be cut down next year. The teachers in these schools have been withdrawn to complete their college training.



Nuns Welcomed In Dixie

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — (NC) — Children here at North Carolina's new Catholic School join their pastor, Bishop James J. Navagh, Auxiliary of Raleigh, in welcoming their new teachers, the Oblate Sisters of Providence. The school, Our Lady of Consolation, opened with the present semester.

Primate To Stay In U.S. Legation

Vienna — (NC) — The U. S. Minister to Hungary said here that there is "no possibility" of a change in the status of Cardinal Mindszenty in the near future.

At a news conference here while he was en route home to the United States, Minister Edward Thompson Waller said the Cardinal-Primate of Hungary will remain in refuge in the U.S. legation in Budapest "as long as there is no change" in Hungary's political situation.

CARDINAL MINDSZENTY sought refuge in the American legation last November 4, the day Soviet forces unleashed their massive attack which unseated the government of Premier Imre Nagy. The Cardinal had been freed from his prison by Hungarian freedom fighters only four days earlier.

Mr. Waller said Cardinal Mindszenty appears to be in good spirits and good health. He said the Cardinal spends much of the time in meditation, reads a lot, listens to the radio and does some writing.

Red Hungary Bans Cardinal 'For Ever'

Vienna — (RNS) — Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, remains under sentence of life imprisonment and will never resume his ecclesiastical functions, the Hungarian Communist government announced.

IT IS SAID THE Cardinal faces "sanctions" when he leaves the American legation in Budapest where he is now in asylum and meanwhile any citizen who carries out any order issued by him automatically commits an illegal act.

The government's announcement was made in a statement issued by Janos Horvath, head of the State Office for Church Affairs.

The statement appeared exclusively in Nepszabadsag, official government organ, and Nepszabadsag, Communist trade union paper, both published in Budapest.

Mr. Horvath recalled that Cardinal Mindszenty was condemned to life imprisonment in 1949 for "high treason, espionage, and black market dealings," but was released from prison in 1955.

HOWEVER, HE pointed out, the Cardinal was not permitted to resume his church duties and remained isolated under government detention until his "rehabilitation" by insurgents following the revolt last October.

Mr. Horvath charged that during the days of the "counter-revolutionary" revolt Cardinal Mindszenty "incited Hungarians against the people's democratic regime and supported enemies of the government."

West Virginia Fails To Recognize God

Charleston, W. Va. — (RNS) — West Virginia is still the only state in the union that fails to make a reference to God in its constitution.

A joint resolution to amend the preamble to the constitution so as to include mention of God died in the Senate Judiciary Committee as the legislature adjourned. It previously had been unanimously approved by the House. Senate committee members gave no explanation for their failure to act on the resolution.

The proposed amendment would have changed the preamble to read as follows:

"We, the people of West Virginia, acknowledging with gratitude the good providence of God in having permitted us to enjoy a free government, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of West Virginia."

Catholic Archbishop John J. Swint of Wheeling had praised the resolution as a "Christian effort" to recognize God.

"Being a native West Virginian," he said, "I have always been embarrassed in knowing that this is the only state in the union that does not pay reverence to God in its constitution."



Veep Visits Ghana

Vice-President Richard M. Nixon is pictured during special visit to Bishop Joseph O. Bowers, S.V.D. of Accra, Ghana, in background, during Mrs. Nixon's visit to Ghana, the newly independent nation on Africa's west coast. Leading Catholic prelates and national leaders joined in celebrating the first Ghana Independence Day, in territory formerly known as British Gold Coast, and Togoland.

Vice President Nixon Visits Accra Bishop

Accra, Ghana — (NC) — U.S. Vice President and Mrs. Richard Nixon took time out from a busy schedule during Independence celebrations here to pay a special visit to the Catholic Bishop of Accra.

THE NIXONS' visit to the residence of Bishop Joseph O. Bowers, S.V.D., was not anticipated because of the heavy schedule of commitments which the Vice President was expected to complete.

The visit came about after the Vice President was told by Donald W. Lamm, American Consul General to Ghana, that the Catholic missions had the largest American representation in Ghana.

The Vice President and his wife were greeted at the Bishop's residence by Father Edward Datig, S.V.D. After meeting Bishop Bowers, Mr. Nixon remarked "I must say I am surprised to see so many Americans so far from home."

TO THIS REMARK Bishop Bowers replied, "Well, Mr. Nixon, I'm afraid I'm out of place as a foreigner, since I originally came from Dominica, British West Indies."

Later, the Nixons were taken on a tour of Holy Spirit Cathedral, said to be one of the most beautiful churches in all of Africa.

Nixon To See Pope St. Patrick's Day


Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Plus XII will receive Vice President Richard M. Nixon in a private audience on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, the Vatican press office announced.

Mexican Archbishop Bars Fireworks

Mexico City — (RNS) — Archbishop Miguel Dario Miranda of Mexico, in a pastoral letter, said priests should urge the Roman Catholic faithful to refrain from setting off fireworks on religious holidays.

He said the reason for his appeal was the increasing number of accidents resulting from firing rockets and lighting fireworks designs.

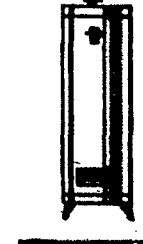
The archbishop also pointed out that the large sums spent on fireworks could be better used for charitable or social betterment work.




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