

# Pupil Rise Seen Exceeding Catholic School Expansion

San Francisco, Calif. — (NC) — Two out of every three Catholic children of elementary school age probably will be enrolled in public schools ten years from now, Father Joseph H. Fichter, S.J., visiting professor of sociology at the University of Notre Dame, declared here.

The present desperate expansion of the parochial school building program cannot possibly keep pace with the growing numbers of Catholic children trying to get into Church operated schools, Father Fichter said.

"THE IMMINENT invasion of the public school by large numbers of Catholic children," he said "has compelled a re-examination of the position of the parochial school in the larger community."

Father Fichter, an authority on parish sociology, expressed his views in an address on "The Parochial School and the Community" at the National Planning Conference of the American Society of Planning Officials here. The Jesuit sociologist is head of the department of sociology at Loyola University of the South, New Orleans, La.

Contending that the climate of public opinion is changing in many places to one of "admiration, gratitude and even support of the parochial school," Father Fichter cited figures to show how the Catholic schools save the taxpayers' money.

The 16 parochial schools which are educating 6,611 children in one typical midwestern city, he said, are contributing annually to the city \$1,871,838, \$1 which would have to be raised through taxes if these children attended city schools.

THE 150 classrooms in the parochial schools of this city would cost the taxpayers more than \$1,500,000 to replace, he said.

THIS FINANCIAL saving, as the least important of the contributions made by the parochial school system," in Father Fichter's opinion. Nevertheless, he said, that more Catholic parents are

becoming interested in the continuing controversy over public aid to parochial schools. They are in favor of asking "for some practical return on the school tax money which they pay as citizens," he said.

They feel, Father Fichter continued, "that some kind of rebate should be forthcoming, not as a privilege but as a right, from the larger community."

## Free Books Asked For Parish Schools

Portland, Ore. — (RNS) The Senate voted to make free textbooks available to all public private and parochial schools in the state.

The measure, sent to the House, would repeal a law under which only schools meeting standards set by the Board of Education can qualify for free textbooks.

Many schools public and parochial cannot meet these standards because of overcrowded conditions. The standards are more concerned with physical conditions than academic programs.

## New Yorkers Lead Maryknoll Ranks

Maryknoll, N. Y. — (NC) — There are now 2,922 Maryknoll nuns and sisters, according to the annual check of personnel statistics. The Maryknoll Fathers number 1,605 and Maryknoll Sisters total 1,219.

New York leads all other states as the source of vocations, having contributed 740 persons to the Maryknoll rolls. Other leading states are Massachusetts, 401, Pennsylvania, 223, and California, 188.



## Knight Despite Handicap

Being received as a page in the "Knights of the Altar," acolytes organization at St. Henry Church, Belleville, Ill., is Charles E. Wulfe, Jr., who is confined to a wheelchair following an attack of polio. Rev. Cyril Foppe, O.M.I., invests the young server. Despite his handicap, "Chuck" wants to serve Mass, and has mastered his Latin responses. (NC Photos).

## Layman Devises Pocket Size 'Confession Guide'

Paterson, N. J. — (NC) — A pocket-size "confession guide" has been manufactured here by Louis Maher, who devised the popular "Rosary Guide."

The guide, on plastic, contains suggestions for examination of conscience, followed by directions for confession. It carries the imprimatur of Bishop James A. McNulty of Paterson.

Mr. Maher overheard a man in a church vestibule ask another if he had a copy of the Act of Contrition. "It's been so long since I've been to confession that I've forgotten," the young man explained.

The incident started Mr. Maher working on the card which contains the minimum essentials for making a good confession.

## Students Ask Religion Study At Harvard

Cambridge, Mass. — (NC) — A report by a committee of the Harvard University Student Council has recommended that courses in religion be given a larger role in the school's liberal arts program.

In a 39-page report, the eight-man committee suggested that Harvard should establish a Committee on Religion, comparable to Committees on History and Literature or History and Science, to provide a more thorough coverage of the subject.

The conclusion drawn by the committee after a study which began in 1954 was that the study of religious thought deserves a more substantial place in the liberal arts curriculum.

"Our major concern," said the committee, "is that the field of religion be handled in courses suited to undergraduates in a reasonably thorough and systematic way. It should also be possible for undergraduates to concentrate in religion."

## Family Allowances Urged In U.S.

Milwaukee, Wis. — (RNS) — A plea that the government study the feasibility of providing "family allowances" to aid low-income parents in rearing their children was made by the National Catholic Conference on Family Life at its 25th annual convention here.

The resolution noted that more than 8,000,000 American families have incomes of less than \$2,000 a year and that the majority of these have more children than higher income families.

Terming children "the first guarantee of the continuation of our American way of life," it called for a government study of family allowances and urged that "family rates in hotels, trains and the airways" be encouraged.

## My Wife Thinks I Don't Pay Enough Attention To Her

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J., Assistant Professor of Sociology at St. Louis University



My wife seems to think I don't pay enough attention to her. Maybe I am a little forgetful at times. I work hard all day and have a lot of things on my mind. She knows I love her and the children. Why else does a man knock himself out earning a living? We've been married for 6 years now and I figure she ought to know by this time that I think she's tops. Are all wives this way?

MANY HUSBANDS ask the same question, and the stock answer they receive is always in the affirmative. Women, we are told, need attention and affection. Wise husbands should play up to this feminine weakness. This answer makes men feel strong and magnanimous, and it puts women neatly in their place.

I have some serious doubts about the validity of this interpretation. If we stop to analyze the situation, we discover that most wives are merely asking for a fifty-fifty break.

In the average well-run family, who gets the lion's share of attention? If it is not the baby, it is father. When he comes home over-tired, everybody soon learns about it. Is he having trouble at work? He expects his wife to listen to his gripes.

Does he have to make a trip? His bag will be efficiently packed with fresh linens and all that he is likely to need. Does he stay home sick? Then even the baby ceases to become the center of solicitude and attention.

This is all perhaps as it should be. He is the breadwinner, the head of the family, and much depends upon him. But the point is, he does receive a great deal of attention and he assumes that he has a right to it.

NOW MARRIAGE is a companionship, a partnership in a very exciting enterprise. Woman's role as wife and mother in this enterprise necessarily confines her to the home. Her contribution to the well-being

of the family equals that of her husband. Her domain, her job, is the home. It is here that she makes her contribution.

Just as her husband feels needed and important because he earns the family support, so she feels needed and important in managing the home.

Is she queer, or does she display feminine weakness because she would like to have her role acknowledged as how does her husband's? How many husbands like to be taken for granted?

Furthermore, unlike her husband, her role confines her largely to the home and to the company of immature children so that she has limited opportunities for adult companionship. Is it strange that she should seek this companionship from him?

A cynic has remarked that women like a strong, silent man because they think he's listening, but most wives who have spent all day with the children are hungry for a little adult conversation.

If you think it over honestly, you will probably have to admit that your wife's complaint about lack of attention is merely her way of asking for an even break in the partnership. You take her solicitude and attention for granted as a kind of natural masculine right.

Is she wrong in asking for a return in kind? Ask yourself, what things do you do together? When were you last out as a couple? When did you last notice how she was dressed, her cooking, the way she manages the home and trains the children?

REMEMBER, MARRIAGE is a partnership for life in which you both find fulfillment of your basic needs and aspirations. God willing, you will be companions for a long time to come.

Are you growing together in mutual understanding and intimacy, or are you merely cohabitating?

Not a few husbands and wives have made the latter mistake. They reach the golden years of the empty nest, and their children have left home, feeling more like co-workers in a completed enterprise than as companions in the ventures of life.

### THE SILK COSTUME

is pretty  
as spring itself—here,  
**CUSTOM-SIZED**  
to your petite  
proportions

How wonderful to find a new-fashion silk ensemble sized so perfectly to your figure type, no costly alterations are needed! Here, just four from our custom-size collection. Left to right:

1. Navy silk-linen costume by Harwyn with lovely tucked silk chiffon bodice; half sizes, \$35
2. Tween-Craft's silk shantung suit with tabbed detail in grey ground print; Tween sizes, \$39.98
3. Andrew Arkin's silk sheath with fitted jacket in beige or lilac; petite sizes, \$39.95
4. Andrew Arkin's printed black cocktail sheath with brief, rib-hugging bolero; petite sizes, \$49.98

Sibley's Better Dresses, Second Floor