

Raps Injustice To Catholic Schools

Melbourne (NC) Catholics in Australia are being treated "disgracefully" with regard to education, Archbishop Daniel Mannix of Melbourne said in a public address here.

Denial of educational justice to Catholics and other citizens is the greatest blot on Australian history, the Archbishop said.

"We are a great people, and we have a great country, and it is going to be a greater country," he said. "But aside from this, we have a great Catholic people and those who make an effort to have Christian schools are being most disgracefully and most unjustly treated."

"We are told that schools and teachers are provided in the state and Catholics are asked why they don't use these state schools."

"If we did, the Education Department, the next morning, would be in a state of utter chaos."

"They have not sufficient school buildings or teachers for state school children, and even now they find it difficult to provide enough schools and teachers."

"IT IS NONSENSE to tell us that we could solve our financial problems by sending our children to the state schools."

"And, in any case, the more important issue would remain. State schools have their own good qualities and do admirable work in certain departments, but they don't meet the needs of the Catholic community."

Archbishop Mannix said that, without any bigotry or violence, Catholics should try to convince their neighbors that they ought to do financial justice to the Catholics and non-Catholics who are striving to maintain Australia as a Christian nation.

Chiang Kai-shek Welcomes China Cardinal Tien

Taipei, Formosa (NC)—His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Tien, S.V.D., Archbishop of Peiping now in exile, was guest of honor at a dinner given by President and Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

The dinner tendered the 66-year-old Prince of the Church by Generalissimo and Mme. Chiang followed by several days an evening Pontifical High Mass offered by Cardinal Tien in Taipei's largest indoor arena.

THE MASS, the first major ceremony during the Cardinal's four month visit to Formosa—the first time he has been in Nationalist Chinese soil since 1949—nearly 7,000 Catholics to the downtown armed forces stadium.

It was the largest gathering of Catholics ever to take place in Formosa—and one which virtually equalled the total Catholic population of the island just 10 years ago.

Over 100 priests, four bishops—including two Massachusetts-born prelates expelled from their mainland dioceses, Bishops Frederick A. Donaghy, M.M., of Wuchow and Philip Cote, S.J., of Suichow, —and three archbishops assisted.

This Pontifical Mass, offered for the peace and prosperity of the nation, was also attended by the Premier, the presidents of the yuan, branches of the Nationalist government, Foreign Minister George K. C. Yeh, and the army chief of staff, Gen. Wang Shuying.



Sister's Symphony Makes Sweet Music

Boston (NC)—This trumpet-toting Sister is a member of the recently organized symphonic ensemble composed of 130 teaching Sisters of the Archdiocese of Boston. The group rendered its initial performance at a local meeting of the National Catholic Music Educators Association.

TV Reveals

Birth Control Advocate 'Heartless'

Washington (NC)—Mike Wallace's recent television interview with birth control advocate Mrs. Margaret Sanger has elicited a varied response in comments published in Catholic newspapers.

AN EDITORIAL entitled "The Contradictory Mrs. Sanger" in the New York Catholic News, characterized the interview as revealing birth control for what it is, "a materialistic philosophy, repudiating the sanctions for the laws of God."

"To the Catholic, the Christian or any religious-minded person who knows that the birth of every child gives him or her an immortal soul intended by God for an eternity of

bliss with Him, Mrs. Sanger's defense of birth control was utterly heartless," the editorial stated.

ROSTON archdiocese's weekly newspaper, The Pilot, found the interview to be a "pitiful performance as the elderly, tired and apparently ill woman found herself dissected before millions of viewers and was not even aware of the operation."

THE EVANGELIST, newspaper of the Albany N.Y. diocese, thought the Wallace Sanger interview was a "graphic instance of the need of vigilance and prudent supervision of television programs."

The Evangelist charged the American Broadcasting Co. and Mr. Wallace's sponsor with perverting the aim of television as a medium of culture, education and entertainment.

Wallace's one-sided airing of controversial public issues is a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's regulation that TV shall operate in the public interest, the editorial charged.

This show, continued the editorial, emphasizes "the tremendous hazard that television presents to the moral welfare. It points up the need on the part of leaders in this new industry to prevent irresponsible elements from prostituting this wondrous work of science."

New Abbot Named

Subiaco (NC)—Father Michael Lansing, O.S.B., was elected fourth abbot of New Subiaco Benedictine Abbey here, succeeding the late Father Paul M. Nathan O.S.B. who died August 31.

Bishop Albert L. Fletcher of Little Rock will confer the abbatial blessing on the newly elected abbot at a date to be determined later.

Is There An Ideal Length For The Engagement Period?

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

Is there an ideal length for the engagement period? Rose and I have been engaged for one year, and we're not sure when we'll be able to get married. We've been told that the Church discourages long engagements. What is considered to be a long engagement, and what does a couple do if conditions do not permit marriage for the time being?



Before answering your questions it might be well to point out that the term engagement is used rather loosely in our country.

At one time it represented an external rite and a formal promise to marry pronounced before witnesses such as the relatives or a representative of the Church. The Church has a formal engagement or betrothal ceremony although today it is used rather infrequently.

At present the formal rite usually consists in the giving of the engagement ring, and its wearing signifies that the couple have exchanged promises to marry. Strictly speaking, the external rite is not necessary and is sometimes ignored.

THE ESSENTIAL point is that the couple have come to a definite agreement that they are to be married.

The Church has no explicit, general position on length of engagement.

The conditions associated with the cohabitation and the entrance into marriage differ widely in various cultures, so that clear cut norms of universal applicability cannot be devised. Whenever rules pertaining to length of engagement are advanced, therefore, they have specific social situations in mind and must be interpreted accordingly.

IN GENERAL, religious leaders have two concerns in mind when formulating such rules. First, they wish to assure the stability of marriage. Second, they wish to guard against violations of chastity.

For example, in a society such as our own where young people are expected to select their future mates through the dating and courtship process, religious leaders oppose hasty marriages. Only if they have associated for some time can future partners learn some-

thing about each other's character and personality.

On the other hand, since this engagement period involves strong emotional attachment, together with more or less frequent and prolonged displays of affection, it presents considerable moral danger for the couple if marriage is postponed for a long time.

The possibility of danger will depend on the temperament of the couple, the frequency with which they associate and the self-restraint which they exercise in showing affection.

Hence the ideal length of engagement cannot be defined as a matter of months or years. It should be long enough for the couple to become thoroughly acquainted.

Under normal circumstances, one year should suffice for this.

It should not be unduly prolonged since socially mature partners normally find it difficult to restrain their impulses under conditions of continued intimacy. Thus an engagement of two years or more would normally involve special problems for one partner or the other.

You ask what is to be done

if marriage still remains impossible? If this is really the case, and you should make sure that it is, you had best try to determine precisely when marriage will be possible. If this can't be done after two years of engagement, why continue the affair? If the date must be postponed to a fairly definite time in the future, then you must regulate your present relationships accordingly.

This requires sincerity and honesty with yourselves for you will need to keep your feelings under constant watch.

In general, avoid frequent and prolonged physical displays of affection. After all, you may as well learn at once that they are only one way of showing love.

Sociologist Visits South

New Orleans (NC)—Jesuit Father Emile J. Pm, a French sociologist, is visiting here for three weeks to study Catholic life and racial and labor problems before joining the staff of the sociology department of the University of Chicago as a visiting instructor. He is a member of the Jesuit sociological center, Action Populaire, in Paris.

B. Forman Co.



WHAT WOULD YOU TELL HIM?

Imagine yourself at the Holy Father's feet in St. Peter's, and he asked you for an aim, telling you how every day his poor from all parts of the world beg help and it breaks his heart not to help where the Church has real need, but he has no funds unless his dutiful children like you help him. What would you tell him? What would you do? Well, we all can't go to Rome nor can he personally speak to each of us. That's why he has this Association to bring before you individually, in his name, how much he yearns to help his poor—especially his missions. This month he begs you to renew MEMBERSHIP or to enroll if you have never done so before, and to persuade relatives and friends to join—or, perhaps, give them a gift enrollment. Both living and deceased are enrolled.

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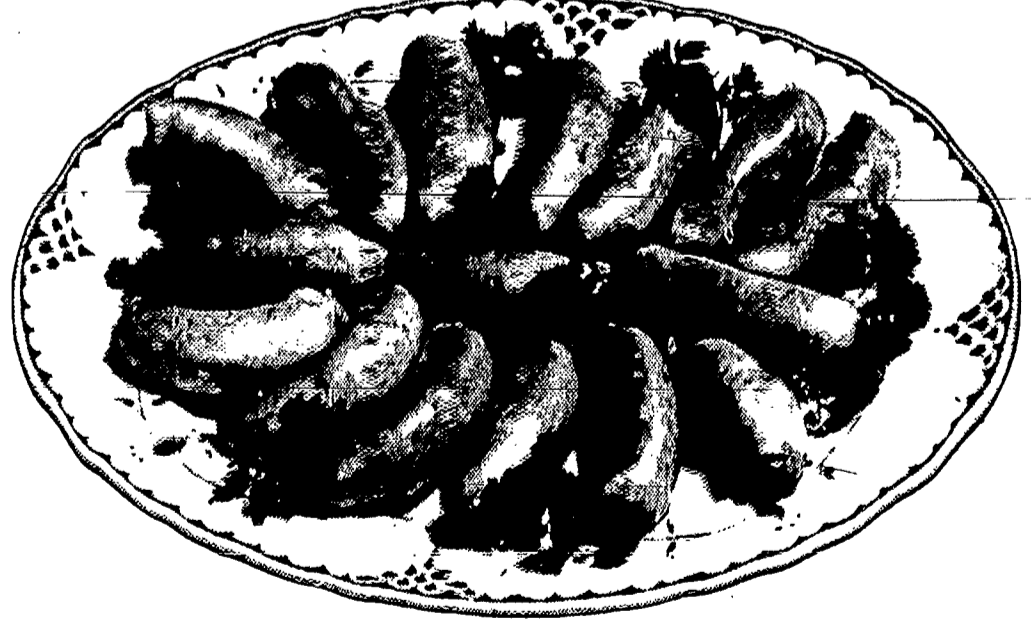
HELP WANTED—MALE AND FEMALE
Three young men, candidates for native priesthood in Egypt and India need support (\$100 yearly) during six years training. Five young women, in Sicily, Lebanon and India, whose services are urgently needed in the missions, are without funds needed to educate them—\$150 a year during two in training. Can you help?

WHEN MAKING YOUR WILL, DON'T FORGET GOD.

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