

Going Up

Catholic School Census Forecast

Philadelphia — (NC) — More than 4.7 million youngsters will be enrolled in Catholic elementary and secondary schools at the start of the next school year in September, an estimate made here said.

The estimated totals for grade and high school enrollments indicate that both levels of education are moving rapidly toward 100 per cent increases in the numbers of students since the end of World War II.

It was also estimated that in the fall of 1958 about 322,000 students will be enrolled in the nation's more than 225 Catholic colleges and universities.

Irish Mail Floods Italian Stigmatist

THESE FIGURES are from a statement released at the 35th annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association here. They were prepared by three NCEA department school superintendents, secondary schools, and colleges and universities.

The total predicted by the NCEA for grade and high school enrollments next fall was 4,787,618, an increase of about 180,617 over the estimated total of 4,607,001 for the current school year.

Though the NCEA statement did not deal with the doubling of enrollment since 1945, a check of figures for that year indicates the schools' constant movement toward that event.

Grade school enrollment needs to reach 4,173,583 to double the 1945 total.

Dublin—(RNS)—The pile of letters from Ireland which every day reach Padre Pio, the Italian Capuchin stigmatist, is big, if not bigger, than that from all the rest of the English speaking world.

Father P. A. Pollock, O.P., prior of the Dominican community in Limerick, disclosed this during a lecture here on the famous stigmatist.

The Dominican priest, author of the best-seller "Wings on the Cross," an account of his six years as a British Air Force chaplain, shared Padre Pio's company for a time during World War II.

Father Pollock said a number of pilots at present with Aer Lingus (Irish Air Lines) had served Mass for Padre Pio and had kissed his bleeding hands.



Washington, D. C. — (NC) — Two Californians held a reunion on Capitol Hill when Vice-President Richard Nixon congratulated newly-named Rector of the Catholic University of America, Msgr. William J. McDonald. Msgr. McDonald will be installed as Rector on April 16th.

Nixon Greet's New University Rector

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Vice President Richard M. Nixon expressed his felicitations to a fellow Californian, Msgr. William J. McDonald, upon his appointment as rector of the Catholic University of America here.

Mr. Nixon, unable to accept an invitation to attend the rector's installation on April 16 because of a forthcoming Latin American tour, expressed his personal regrets during a 45-minute conference with Msgr. McDonald which took place in the Vice President's office.

Msgr. McDonald, a native of Ireland, went to San Francisco to become a priest in the Archdiocese of San Francisco after his ordination in 1928. He served as a parish priest at Palo Alto and Berkeley, as chaplain for the Newman Club at Stanford University, and as assistant editor of the "Morning Official" paper of the San Francisco archdiocese.

Since Msgr. McDonald is still carried on the roster of the Roman Catholic Church as a priest of the San Francisco archdiocese, although on leave since 1949 to teach at Catholic University, members of the California Congressional delegation, including the Vice President, have been invited to occupy a position of honor at the installation rites.

MANY HIGH-ranking government officials and foreign diplomats are expected to attend the ceremony over which two American cardinals and the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, will preside.

Cardinal Mooney of Detroit and Cardinal McIntyre of Los Angeles will be present for the rites, together with many other members of the Catholic hierarchy.

Notre Dame Offers Graduate Theology

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — A graduate program leading to a master of arts in theology degree will be inaugurated by the University of Notre Dame in September.

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Not So Fast, Dad!

Huehuetenango, Guatemala (NC) — Creating a sense of urgency among slow-moving Indians here is desirable. But like everything else, it can be overdone.

Such was the case of the Indian who rushed into see Father Edward P. Brophy, Maryknoll missionary from Lexington, Ky., asking to have his baby baptized.

Thinking the baby was ill the priest quickly made preparations for baptism, assuring the father that there would be no delay.

But the father replied: "Ah, not yet, padre, it's not due to be born until next week. I just want to be ready."

Jesuit Released By Chinese Reds

Hong Kong (NC) — After having been held by the Reds for seven years, a 43-year-old Chinese Jesuit has returned to his home in Shanghai, China.

According to the report received here Father Huang Tai-chung, S.J., had been doing forced labor in Tsinghai province in northwest China. This high-altitude barren plateau, which has deposits of gold, silver, coal and zinc, is known for its extreme cold weather.

Ex-Methodist Preacher Explains Catholic Faith To Protestant Clergy

By C. ROBERT WONDERLY

Huntington, Ind. — (NC) — A former Methodist preacher has launched a national program, financially backed by hundreds of Catholic laymen, which is putting thousands of column inches of Catholic reading matter into the laps of more than 12,000 Protestant ministers in this country and 15 islands.

The one-time Methodist preacher turned Catholic priest, Dale Francis, has launched the program he has called "Operation Understanding." He started the program last year through his column which appears in "Our Sunday Visitor," a national Catholic weekly published here.

MR. FRANCIS also founded last fall the Lone Star Catholic edition of "Our Sunday Visitor" as the newspaper for the Austro-Protestant ministers' copies of the Lone Star Catholic through the "Operation Understanding" program, and has been swamped with mail from the ministers.

In a column written especially for Protestant ministers in the "Our Sunday Visitor," Mr. Francis quotes from letters and includes comments of his own in a very temperate discussion of general interest for the ministers. For those interested in specific or personal points, Mr. Francis handles the correspondence personally.

At the outset, Mr. Francis said there were a few blunt demands for removal of names from the mailing list. But he added, "I am only willing to accept the material with open minds. Some expressed gratitude and a desire to understand."

Mr. Francis, who was converted to Catholicism while serving with the Air Force during World War II, revealed that he learned about the Church by reading "From Catholic Sources."

Only then, he said, did he come to realize that he was unaware of his ignorance of matters Catholic while serving as pastor of the First Methodist church in Fort Recovery, Ohio, from 1937 to 1941, and earlier in his life.

Mothers Serve Parish Societies Best By Rearing Christian Families

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

How active in parish affairs should the parents, particularly the mother of a large family be? In our parish there is some resentment because mothers with four, five, or more small children can't do too much in the Altar Society, Scouts, etc. I get tired of hearing women with only one, or two, or no small children constantly praised for their activity. Why is there so little understanding of big families, especially when the children are small?



You're not the first to raise these questions. Ann. Many mothers with a house full of small children feel that they receive little recognition for the important work they are doing.

Attention and praise go to those who are active outside the home. This is something of a paradox for Catholics who place such high esteem upon motherhood and family life. Perhaps if we examined the parish setting more closely we can see how this situation may arise.

EVERY ACTIVE parish requires a series of societies, organizations, and committees for its smooth operation. All members of the parish have an obligation to cooperate in this work according to their respective capacities.

As in all such voluntary activities, some members cooperate generously and faithfully, while others sit back and let "Joe" do it. It is not surprising that those who are interested in securing cooperation should get out of their way to praise the active members.

It is easy to forget that these are not the most important activities in the parish, that mothers with small children, engaged in a much more important work, may simply not have time to cooperate fully in other parish activities. These mothers may not be sitting back to let "Joe" do it, they may have more pressing demands upon their time and energy.

You ask Ann why there is so little sympathy and understanding for big families, especially during the years when the children are small.

One reason I think is that because people don't stop to reflect on the normal routine problems a big family necessarily presents. To be sure,

mothers who have six and can afford baby-sitters may have somewhat more time for parish affairs, but they tend to be the exception in the average parish.

The second cause stems from an unrecognized element of secularism in the minds of some Catholics. Although they profess to agree with the Church that numerous children are a blessing, this is one blessing they are quite happy to forego. In reality, they don't appreciate or respect a large family and consequently don't sympathize with its problems.

Now Ann let's return to your first question: How active in parish affairs should mothers of large families be?

I think I've indicated all the principles needed to formulate an adequate answer. First, there is a hierarchy of values in parish activities. A mother's first obligation is to her home and children.

It follows that in being a good mother, you are making

the best contribution you can make to the parish.

If you are fortunate enough to have some time and energy to spare, join with others in promoting parish activities.

Just remember that for the present, your best contribution to the parish will be made in your home.

What will happen to parish activities if all mothers take this view? Well I answer in the first place, if parish activities are now taking mothers away from their most important work in the home, they are doing more harm to the parish than good. Second, mothers with small children constitute only a limited percentage of parish members. Their essential work is clearly cut out for them while their children are small. Later, they will have leisure energy to make a large contribution.

In this connection I would like to point out the peculiar distribution of work in the modern mother's life. She tends to be almost too busy during the childbearing and child-rearing stage, and too idle once this is accomplished.

The average life-span of American women is steadily increasing. Indeed, as one cycle has remained, "Once they reach the age of forty, modern women become almost indomitable." Hence mothers have many years in which to make their contribution to parish affairs. Wouldn't a better distribution of labor make more sense?

I suppose, Ann, there will always be some thoughtless ways in the way we regard faithful workers. But your happiness as a mother is not measured on public esteem — your children remain your enduring blessing.

Boys — Young Men Wanted

To Follow Christ — To Save Souls — To Sanctify Themselves By Becoming Priests in the Capuchin Franciscan Order.

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"THE ANGELS WOULD BE TENSE"

writes Archbishop Assaf, "If they were in the Holy Land this Easter, the poor refugees of Zarqa (Transjordan) remain homeless and poor in the midst of anxiety and mounting fear for the future. From the depths of their need and suffering they have given \$1,500 to build a home for the Risen Savior. He must be pleased with their sacrifices." These people can do no more. Will you help them to furnish this simple Church—the child of their faith in the mercy—of God? They need \$1,000 to finish the job they began with such high hopes—will you share your joy of Easter with them. Will you come to their aid today?

THE MOTHER OF MARY has a special love for Julian and Clement. They wish to study at the seminary of St. Ann to prepare themselves to bring Christ to those who know Him not. Each must have a total of \$600 to pay all the necessary expenses. What can we say—what need we say of the essential need throughout the entire Near East for a devoted and educated clergy. Each day the demand for more priests gathers additional force as more and more souls are won for Christ. Will your love for the Mystical Body supply the bare essentials which will make it possible for "another Christ" to work among the poor of the Near East. You may pay the \$600 over a period of six years and in any manner convenient to you.

THE HANDS OF THE HOLY FATHER ARE THE HANDS OF CHRIST. . . MAY HE BRING YOUR STINGLESS GIFTS TO THE SUFFERING CHURCH OF THE NEAR EAST. . . HE WILL BLESS YOUR CHARITY!

PRIESTS CANNOT DO ALL THE WORK, or even the most of it!! They absolutely require the assistance of missionary nuns. Sister Lucy and Sister Hyacinth wish to offer their young lives to the service of Christ in His poor of India. Each must have a total of \$300 for her support during her two year period of intensive training and preparation for this great work. You will share in the merits of a life of selfless work and prayer if you can support a girl in the novitiate. Can you afford to have a nun in the family? You may pay the \$300 over the two year period in any manner of installments convenient to you.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE CHILDREN! The future belongs to the children of today and the Church of the future in the Near East will depend entirely on those little ones who are trying to draw closer to Christ. Will you help a child to know Christ better. . . will you build for the future today? \$10 will buy a First Holy Communion outfit for a refugee child and convince the child of the depth and breadth of the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ. The simple prayers of the child will be your reward.

REMEMBER YOUR MISSIONARIES WHO DEPEND ON YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

SUGGESTION OF THE WEEK
Have you thought of something for MOTHER'S DAY? What could be more fitting than our beautiful GIFT CARD (designed for the occasion) which will tell of your generosity to the Mission Chapels of the Near East. We will send the card anywhere for you and enclose PRESSEDFLOWERS FROM THE HOLY LAND.

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