

Public School Nun Teachers Win Ohio OK

Columbus—(NC)—A religious habit is no impediment to teaching in a public school, Ohio's attorney general has ruled.

While "sectarian teaching" is forbidden in public schools, "wearing a distinctive garb does not amount to a teaching of religious doctrine," said Attorney General William Saxbe. Persons of "any religious faith or of no faith" may lawfully be employed to teach in public schools, Mr. Saxbe added.

This attorney general's statement was made in reply to a question from Randall Metcalf, Washington County Prosecuting Attorney. Mr. Metcalf's query asked if "any members of a religious order teach in the public schools wearing the religious habit required by their order, and be compensated from public funds?"

THE QUESTION appeared in a letter to the attorney general from a parent in a public school district. The parent had been informed by financial problems that a Catholic school from the Diocese of Steubenville had employed a religious sister to teach in it.

In submitting his reply to the attorney general, Mr. Metcalf stressed that "this is not a question of public funds being expended for the maintenance of a Catholic school, but of the employment of a religious sister to teach in a public school."

Seek Facts Says

Archeologist

Milwaukee—(NC)—An archeological excavation should not be undertaken to reveal the site of an early American settlement in a scientific way, a leading local scholar said here.

Father Robert North, S.J., director of the Jerusalem branch of the Rome Pontifical Biblical Institute, warned that "much harm" has been done to the faith by well-meaning excavators who set out to prove "true" the facts related in the Bible.



Monsignor Burns, pastor of St. Thomas Church, Irondequoit, leads nuns to new convent in Saturday dedication rite.

St. Thomas Parish Opens New Convent

Four years of cramped life in two long, narrow convents came to a dramatic end on Saturday morning, Nov. 8, for the 11 Sisters of Mercy at St. Thomas parish, Irondequoit.

led by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Burns, pastor of St. Thomas Church, Irondequoit, and the Sisters of Mercy, who have been housed in a building on the site of the old convent since 1954. The new convent is located on a 10-acre site on the east side of the parish, bounded by the railroad tracks to the north and the highway to the south.

Occupancy was begun by the lighting of the "Veni Creator" in the beautiful new chapel after which Mgr. Burns blessed the house and celebrated Mass for the Sisters and people of the parish.

THE PASTOR paid tribute to the outstanding generosity of the people without whose help when all is said and done this building would not stand here today.

Also in attendance at the Mass were Rev. Mother Magdalene of the Sisters of Mercy, Rev. John

New Record High In Subscriptions

Subscription totals for the Courier Journal have reached a record high figure for the second consecutive week.

Five parishes this week reported increased totals from their parishes pushing the overall number to an all-time high of 1,676.

The reports from the five parishes also indicate a new record number from each parish:

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, pastor, 1,668 subscribers.

St. James, Rochester, Rev. Father M. Feehan, pastor, 938.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira, Rev. Leo H. Schwab, pastor, 621.

St. James, Watery, Rev. G. Stuart Hogan, pastor, 457.

St. Aloysius, Auburn, and St. Joseph, Cayuga, Rev. James J. ...

Cardinal Urges Quick Action To Save Faith

Rome—(NC)—Quick action to solve the problems of the Church in Latin America was urged by Marcelle Cardinal Mimmi.

The Cardinal addressed the opening session of the third Latin American Episcopal Council meeting this week in Rome.

CARDINAL MIMMI urged the meeting to make haste in its actions since "trends of thought move quickly today" and because "once positions are lost, it is difficult to win them back again."

He stressed that special attention should be given to the problem of religious instruction, calling it "the basic problem which gives present cause for concern," he continued.

"Religious ignorance is the great danger which threatens the Christian world. It must be fought with the same vigor and determination as the fight against communism. The clergy, men and women religious, members of Catholic associations and, in brief, the whole great army of the Church Militant must be rallied and organized to win in the immense field of the Christian apostolate."

Brooklyn Catechism Meet To Hear Bishops, Priests

Both Bishop Kearney and Auxiliary Bishop Casey will take part in this weekend's ninth regional congress of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine to be held in Brooklyn.

Bishop Kearney will preside at a Saturday morning session whose topic will be "Organized Schools of Religion"—the growing method of instructing Catholic pupils attending public schools.

Bishop Casey is scheduled to preside at a Friday evening session for an estimated 1,500 high school students. Topic will be "Teenage Witnesses."

Friday-Saturday-Sunday congress is expected to draw thousands of clergy, nuns and laymen.

Vatican Paper Blasts Night Club Carousal

Vatican City—(RNS)—A scandal in a Rome night club prompted a sharp attack by Osservatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper on the local gay set which it branded as "the basic problem which gives present cause for concern," he continued.

The night club in question was the scene of a private party given by an American socialite for the 25th birthday of an Italian countess. It degenerated into a wild carousal during which a Turkish dancer allegedly staged an indecent performance and was afterwards taken to police headquarters for questioning.

New Church Construction Tops Record

Washington—(RNS)—Church construction set a new record during October, totaling \$31,000,000 and breaking by \$1,000,000 the record for the month established in 1957, the Departments of Commerce and Labor reported here.

THE SPURT in October building activity carried total church construction for the first 10 months of 1958 to an estimated \$704,000,000, only \$14,000 less than for the same period of 1957, an indication that the effects of the recent business recession have been shaken off.

Church construction was not affected as much as other types of building activity by the business slump, dropping only about 5 per cent.

Construction activity by the non-public schools and colleges also set a new record in October, reaching \$53,000,000, compared with \$48,000,000 for the same month in 1957. New building of these educational institutions, most of which are church-related, has totaled \$163,000,000 for the first 10 months of 1958, compared with \$152,000,000 in the same period last year.

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