

Co-op Need Cited In Report

Aspen, Colo. (NC)—Purchasing and marketing cooperatives and credit unions are needed today more urgently than ever before, according to a report of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference made in its annual policy statement.

An appeal that the "cooperative approach" to many social and economic problems be used more widely was one of the recommendations in the board's statement entitled "The Non-Urban Parish."

The ENOCH statement is a widening series of suggestions for bringing about the ideal non-urban parish. It was issued after a board meeting.

"The pastor should teach his people the Christian principles upon which cooperatives should be founded, such as the dignity and rights of men, the purpose of material goods and the obligations of social justice," the statement said.

Other recommendations included training parents and supplying them with materials to teach children religion; making the faithful aware of the "evangelical" theme of the liturgical year; and making more use of sacramental related to rural life, such as blessing of the soil.

The statement said that in communities with decreasing populations, "the members of mission churches should graciously obey as directed by the Ordinary to affiliate with the mother parish." It urged against "local" loyalties and sentimental attachments which obstruct such complications.

Nun Named Advisor For Aged

Washington (RNS)—Mother M. Benedette De Lourdes, vicar general of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, has been named here to the advisory committee for the White House Conference on Aging.

Her appointment was announced by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Arthur S. Flemming.

Pontiff Plans Return To Home

Columbus, Ohio (RNS)—Pope John XXIII is expected to return to the Vatican on Sept. 23 from the papal summer residence here. His stay at Castelgandolfo will have lasted two months, or about half the time of the late Pope Pius XII, who normally spent here each year.

U.S. Rome College To Mark Centenary

Rome (RNS)—Pope John XXIII will preside at ceremonies Oct. 11 marking the centenary of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where seminarians from U.S. dioceses are sent to complete their studies.

Expected to attend the rites are Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston; and John Cardinal O'Hara, Archbishop of Philadelphia. Also present will be about 60 other members of the American hierarchy.

Attending from the Rochester Diocese will be Monsignor Richard K. Burns and John E. Maney, and Fathers Bernard C. Hanna and John A. Redington, all four are alumni of the college.

Currently attending the college from the Diocese are Fathers James M. Moylan and Charles E. Curran and undergraduate students Edward J. Dillon, Patrick Logan and Mark W. Sullivan.

Monsignor Burns was vice rector of the Rome school from 1947 to 1955.

The Courier Journal will publish a specially written article by Rev. Robert A. McNamara of St. Bernard's seminary in next week's issue.

Mystery Cross Over Washington

Washington (RNS)—A Cross appeared in the sky over Washington as President Eisenhower and other high-ranking officials attended a dinner given by Russian Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev at the Russian Embassy here.

How it came to appear and who—if anyone—was responsible for it, remains a mystery.

The Christianism, a non-sectarian religious organization, responsible for the 10,000 foot-high Latin Cross which appeared in the sky when Mr. Khrushchev arrived in Washington knew nothing of it. It was not made by a skywriting airplane, nor could any evidence be detected that it was being projected by searchlight beams.

VINCENT SHIELDS, Religious News Service photo correspondent, said his attention was called to it by a reporter for the Washington Daily News. Together, they climbed to the roof of the Daily News building and tried to photograph it. The weather, when developed a few minutes later, turned up nothing.

Thinking it was just an optical illusion, Mr. Shields completed his business at the newspaper office and left for home. Outside, as he approached his parked car, he looked up and saw the Cross again, this time very clearly. He took out a tripod, mounted his camera, and Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Should Parents Allow Youngsters To Date Catholics Only?

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
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When I was a youngster, all my friends were Catholics. I went to Catholic schools and most of my parents' neighbors and friends were Catholics. However, our four children are growing up in a religiously mixed community. Many of their friends and ours are not Catholic. Our oldest girl is eleven and we're starting to wonder what kind of date she will be able to get. It will be difficult to avoid associating with non-Catholics. How should we be?

Many serious Catholic parents are facing this same problem for the first time. The widespread shift in urban populations, together with the upward social mobility of many Catholics, has taken them out of the traditional Catholic neighborhoods in which they were born and placed them in newly developed, religiously mixed communities.

Of course some Catholic families have always faced this problem, but up until recent changes, the bulk of American Catholics lived in relatively compact communities, located primarily in the large urban centers found east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio Valley.

As the centers of our large cities continue to disintegrate and decay, more and more young Catholic couples move out to the suburbs or respond to the demands of rapidly growing industries in the South and Far West.

Consequently, many Catholic parents face a new problem, though not all seem aware of its implications. Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religious leaders have recently expressed concern over the indifference of their members toward interfaith marriage.

Numerous public opinion polls indicate that the majority of young people and their parents feel that "other things being equal" interfaith marriages have as much chance to succeed as any others.

It is clear from your letter that you do not share this view. Your question is definitely to the point, since dating may lead to friendship here, should you allow your children to date non-Catholics? It would be simple, though perhaps not very realistic, to answer with a strong "No."

However, as you indicate, as a father of your children's friends are not Catholic, and some of your close neighbors



as well as your husband's associates at work, are non-Catholics. Hence your social life and that of your children necessarily involves some excellent friends who are not Catholics.

What about dating? It seems to me that we have to make a distinction here based on the character of modern dating patterns. Dating in our society serves both as a preparation for marriage and as a means of entertainment. These two functions are not always separated, but should be evident that when young people are old enough to marry, their dating necessarily must be regarded as essentially a step toward marriage.

On the other hand, the mere or less casual dating permitted to teen-agers who can have no serious thought of marriage in mind, must obviously be for the sake of entertainment. If you are responsible parents, this latter type of dating will be particularly easy to see-Catholic! It would be simple, though perhaps not very realistic, to answer with a strong "No."

It will be supervised, limited in frequency, and focused primarily on participation in a group. Under these conditions, it will be permissible to allow your children to

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