

First Step To Unity

New York — (RNS) — Archbishop Anthony Bashir of New York, Metropolitan of the Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church of North America, declared here that any initial meetings and discussions on Christian unity "must be restricted to Orthodox Catholics and Roman Catholics."

This was one of the points maintained by the archbishop in an official statement issued clarifying his "basic conclusions" concerning church unity.

Observing that the various branches of Protestantism have "enormous basic doctrinal divergencies from both Orthodox and Roman," he stated that the inclusion of "Protestant spokesmen in an Orthodox-Roman dialogue would only result in chaos."

"If Orthodox and Roman differences were adjusted," he said, "the Protestant world, naturally and psychologically, would be faced with a serious re-assessment of its genesis and development."

Metropolitan Bashir said he was issuing the statement because the "most positive and encouraging responses" which he has made to Pope John XXIII's announcement of an ecumenical Council to explore the possibility of reunion between Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Churches "have been quoted and misinterpreted in the public and church press and elsewhere."

Since he had received "so many inquiries from so many sources as to the exact nature of my proposals," the archbishop explained he decided to issue an official statement.

THE METROPOLITAN said that in all efforts to end Christian disunity since World War I, "the most encouraging event in the viewpoint of the Orthodox Church has been the suggestion of the Roman Pope John XXIII that serious consideration be given to Orthodox and Roman reunion."

Hailing the Pontiff's suggestion as a "tremendous achievement," Archbishop Bashir asserted that the resistance or indifference of some Orthodox spokesmen, the "evident alarm of some Protestant ecumenists, and the extreme caution of later comments from Rome," do not detract from the "value of this truly courageous act."

The archbishop declared that Orthodox leaders should give their utmost support to the "apparent intention of the Pope to pass beyond the traditional formalities and the empty euphemies of the past."

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Population Boom, Reds-Threaten Peace

Conversion Said Possible

Washington — (RNS) — Conversion of the Communist world to true principles of freedom and peace was described here as a prime Christian goal today by the Roman Catholic hierarchy of the United States.

In a 2,280-word statement issued at the close of their annual three-day meeting at the Catholic University of America, the bishops said it was in this spirit that the statesmen of the world must continue "their often disheartening quest for peace, reductions in armament, and the introduction of the rule of law into the society of nations."

Declaring that "there are indications that the spirit of man will not stay crushed," the bishops said, "We should storm heaven with prayer and penance, knowing that what seems to man impossible, God will grant to those who pray to Him with humble hearts, free of hatred and a spirit of revenge."

"As the early Christians converted the pagan world, we can seek to move those whose hearts seem hardened by blasphemous contempt for God and inhuman disregard for their fellow men."

Entitled "Freedom and Peace," the bishops' statement marked the sixth time in recent years that they have stressed the theme of peace. It was signed by the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference on behalf of the approximately 200 prelates who attended the Washington sessions.

Noting the recent visit of Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev to the United States, the bishops said the basic issue today is not between capitalism and Communism in their economic aspects, but between freedom and coercion. And freedom, they emphasized, means the right of man to use his faculties for his own just benefit and for the service of his fellowman in accordance with the law of God.

The bishops listed among the chief obstacles to peace and freedom not only the "overriding danger" of Communism, but the spirit of excessive nationalism, inhuman social conditions in many parts of the world, and conditions at home which threaten our moral integrity.

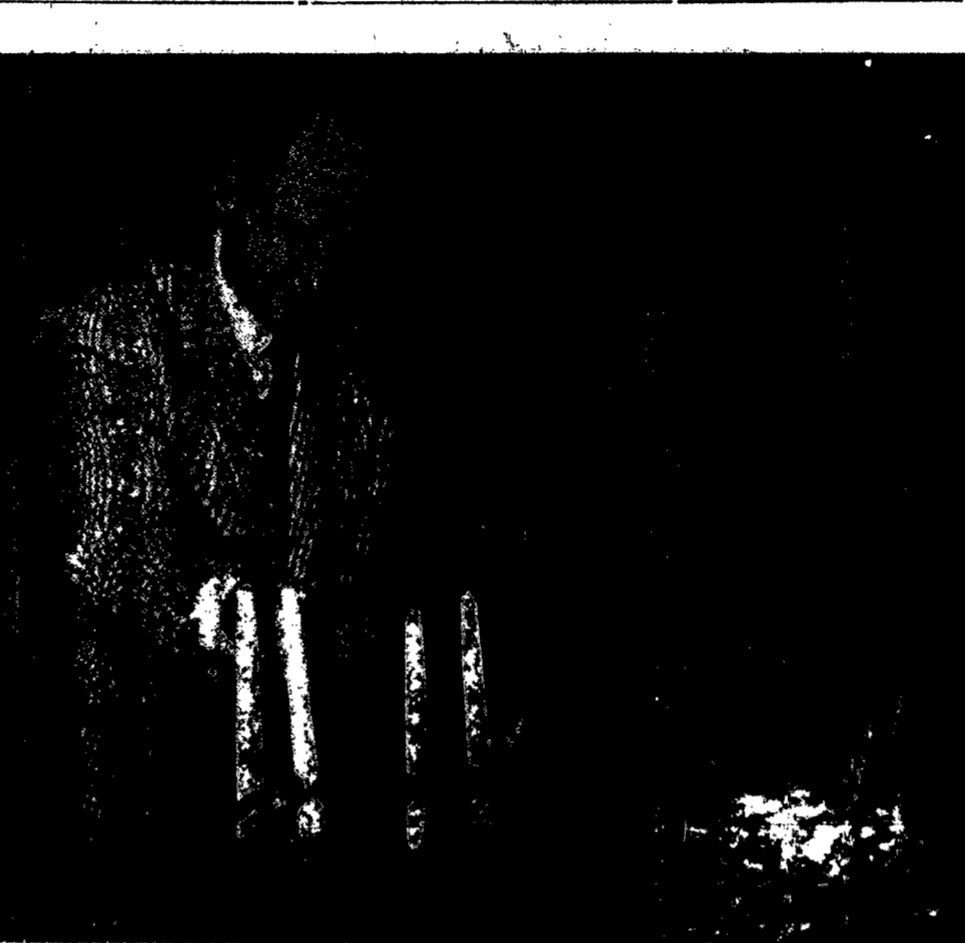
Another obstacle, the bishops warned, is the plight of the millions of refugees whose present status is a challenge to all who believe in freedom and peace. They said these "victims of totalitarian tyranny... pose no threat to the peace and security of any land that may be their haven," but continued apathy to the problem of resettling them is "a reproach to the conscience of the free world."

The bishops said that the Communists preach freedom and peace incessantly, but their actions belie their words.

They said that besides stirring up hate and mistrust, the Communists reopen the old wounds of people who had grievances in the days when they were subject to alien rule. And "while they themselves enslave whole nations over whom they have no shadow of claims," they added, "they seize wherever possible upon economic and racial injustices to incite class warfare and violent revolution."

The bishops hailed the worldwide movement toward independence as "in itself good and laudable." But they cautioned that among nations formerly subjected to external control "too often a morbid preoccupation with past grievances arouses a spirit of revenge that is inimical to peace."

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The bettering of the moral conscience of the world is the goal of the Catholic Church. We will appreciate our no-agent plan. TROTT BROS., 1120 Mt. Hope, GR 3-3271. — Adv.



A Family Prepares For Christmas

This Sunday will be the start of Advent, the beginning of a new Church year. Everett Murphy of 526 Bay View Rd., St. Cecilia's parish, Irondequoit, lights the first candle of the family Advent wreath, as his wife Mildred and 19 month old daughter Kathleen look on. Mr. Murphy is spiritual life director of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. What is the meaning of the wreath? See Mary Daly's column in second section of this Courier Journal.

Mon Dieu! Said The Pope

If I Knew You Were Coming

Paris — (NC) — When he arrived to help him prepare the meal. Pope John XXIII once forgot he had invited some VIPs to dinner, and so got the first newly published book, "John XXIII, Pastor of the World."

South Africa

New Party Seeks Racial Equality

Johannesburg — (NC) — Many of the policies adopted by South Africa's new Progressive party are in line with the stand for racial equality taken by the bishops of this race-conscious nation.

The new party will admit persons of all races to membership and has declared that no one should be barred from taking part in national life on the basis of race, religion, language or sex.

This puts the Progressives in opposition to the ruling Nationalist party, which is enforcing a policy of apartheid or strict racial segregation.

The Progressive party was formally established here at a meeting attended by 300 delegates in mid-November. Its leaders are 10 members of Parliament who have broken away from the United party. South Africa's second largest political group which also favors racial segregation, but a milder sort than that advocated by the Nationalists. The small Liberal party opposes racial discrimination.

Among the new party's influential members is a former Catholic, Leo Boyd, former mayor of Durban, one of the country's largest cities, and a member of the Natal Provincial Executive Council.

He said the formation of the new party represents the awakening of the moral conscience of South Africa in response to the calls of its religious leaders. Bishops in South Africa have repeatedly condemned the na-

Birth Control Not Answer

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Washington — (NC) — The Bishops of the United States asserted this week that Catholics would not support any public program, either at home or abroad, to promote artificial birth prevention.

In a statement formulated at their annual meeting, the Catholic bishops denied recent assertions that artificial birth prevention is gradually becoming acceptable to the Church. "This is simply not true," they said.

The bishops devoted a 1,516 word statement to the controversial question of birth prevention and the population problem. The statement, entitled "Explosion or Backfire?," was the second to come out of the meeting of more than 200 bishops at the Catholic University of America, Nov. 18-19.

Previously issued was a statement on "Freedom and Peace."

The bishops said they wished "to direct attention to the very real problem of population pressures." But they rejected artificial birth prevention as an approach that is "morally, humanly, psychologically and politically disastrous."

THE BISHOPS restated the traditional teaching of the Church on control of birth, and rejected the idea that only the method chosen was the issue of controversy.

"The perennial teaching of the Catholic Church has distinguished artificial birth prevention, which is a frustration of the marital act, from other forms of control of birth which are morally permissible.

"Method alone, however, is not the only question involved. Equally important is the sincere and objective examination of the motives and intentions of the couples involved. In view of the nature of the marriage contract itself."

The bishops said there was "abundant evidence of a systematic, concerted effort" to swing United States' public opinion behind use of public funds to promote artificial birth prevention for economically underdeveloped countries.

Catholics will not support "any public assistance, either at home or abroad, to promote artificial birth prevention, abortion or sterilization whether through direct aid or by means of international organizations," the bishops said.

The prelates cited as "alarming" the "present attempt of some representatives of Christian bodies who endeavor to elaborate the plan into a theological doctrine which envisages artificial birth prevention within the married state as the 'will of God.'"

Calling the "population explosion" a "terror technique phrase," the bishops stated that the "explosion" is "still a hypothesis that must stand the test of science." The bishops stressed that if the predictors wish to forestall population increases, they must concede the right to predict production increases as well.

The Catholic approach to the population problem, the bishops said, is a realistic one "grounded in the natural law (which, it should be made clear, is not the law of the jungle, as sometimes erroneously supposed) and in respect for the human person, his origin, freedom, responsibility and destiny."

"The thus far hidden reservoirs of science and of the earth unquestionably will be uncovered in this era of marvels and offered to humanity by dedicated persons with faith in mankind..." they asserted.

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Deaf Child Teaches Psychologists

Washington — (RNS) — Gathered around little Larry Kent, age 5, at the first workshop ever held on "Psychological Assessment of the Deaf" are (left to right): Father John P. Hourihan, archdiocesan director, St. Carmel Guild, Apostolate for the Deaf, Newark, N.J.; Prof. John F. Kinnane of the Catholic University of America, which launched the workshop; and Dr. Edna S. Levine, associate research scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute in New York City. Catholic University, with the aid of a \$6,831 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, is conducting a project on the special study of the deaf's psychological problems.

Pope Urges Better Farm Conditions

Vatican City — (NC) — The welfare of farming people and the success of the coming harvest were stressed by Pope John XXIII in his weekly general audience.

Addressing more than 8,000 farmers present in St. Peter's Basilica (Nov. 18), the Pope urged that efforts to improve the farmer's lot materially be accompanied by equal efforts to improve it spiritually.

"We know that praiseworthy efforts are constantly being put forward in every way to improve civic and social conditions of the farmers and to make their labors more profitable in view of the changed conditions of the times," Pope John said.

"In this respect every effort made for an increased application of justice and charity is not only approved but encouraged and blessed."

"Yet, while the process of economic and social improvement continues with certain progress, there must also be a constant ascent in the spiritual and religious life. We live on earth, but we were created for heaven... No one can understand better than you the meaning of the simple but wise words of the St. Pius X catechism: 'God created us to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this life and to be happy with Him forever in heaven.'"

Seminarians Hear Layman

Dr. Paul S. Lalonde was the first layman to speak at a Mission Society meeting at St. Bernard's Seminary Sunday evening, Nov. 22.

The well known Rochester dentist showed pictures of his four trips to Tanganyika missions staffed by Medical Missionary nuns.

Educator Says

Forget 'Wall' Of Separation

Cleveland — (NC) — Ohio's Public School Board Association was told that cooperation between public and religious schools can be improved by forgetting the slogan which says a wall exists between church and state.

Instead, the association's convention was told, each specific instance of church-state educational relations contains an area of uncertainty and a line which neither church nor state may cross must be found in each case.

"THIS WAS THE view of Robert H. Hamilton, dean of the University of Dayton law school and an attorney who has specialized in school law.

Dean Hamilton was one of two men taking part in a discussion of the use of public funds for non-public schools during the gathering of the association, whose members come from the state's public school boards.

The other speaker was Gerald H. Reed, professor of education at Kent State University, who made an appeal for favoring auxiliary services, such as bus rides for pupils in nonpublic schools, but as opposed to full tax support of these schools.

Dean Hamilton was critical of the U.S. Supreme Court's McCollum decision which threw the term "wall of separation between church and state" into the public arena.

"The so-called wall is not high," he said. "It is not impenetrable. There is not any wall. There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution which says anything about it."

"Yet that wall of separation is the finest noise a court can make to explain a decision it has reached on grounds which it refuses to disclose."

In his appeal that church-state educational relations be decided on an instance-by-instance basis in a spirit of cooperation between two agencies, Dean Hamilton cited the school bus situation.

Huron and Omega watches. Budget Terms. William S. Thorne Jeweler, 818 Main St. East. — Adv.

Give For Christmas

Many families will be in need this Christmas time. You can help them by giving a donation to the Catholic Charities Christmas Fund.

Send your contribution now to 50 Chestnut St., Rochester 4, N.Y.

Father Lavery On TV Show

Father Charles Lavery of St. John Fisher College will be one of three Rochester clergymen to speak on the new, locally produced WHEC-TV program "Opinion."

The premier will be Tuesday evening, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m. on Channel 10.

Papal Bull From U.S.

Castelgandolfo — (NC) — A registered Holstein-Friesian bull, a gift from St. Coletta's School for mentally handicapped children in Jefferson, Wis., has arrived here to join a herd of Holsteins on the farm of the papal summer villa.

Arrangements for shipping the bull were made by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference in the U.S.