

Bishops Ask Open U.S. To Immigrants

Washington — (NC) — The Catholic bishops of the United States questioned today whether U. S. immigration quotas were high enough, "considering the immense economic strength of our nation."

The question was raised in a statement on "World Refugee Year and Migration" issued on behalf of the over 200 bishops, archbishops and cardinals making up the administrative board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. It was signed by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Paul F. Tanner, general secretary.

The N.C.W.C. board said migration was "not the only solution, nor always the best solution for the problem of poverty in overcrowded lands," but emphasized that it was "an absolute need for many refugees and displaced persons."

The bishops' agency called migration "a right due in justice to the individual," and said the obligation to welcome immigrants stemmed from Christian charity prompting men to give other human beings "access to the resources of the earth created by God for the good of man."

"When migration becomes an impractical solution because of the sheer numbers involved, then heroic measures must be taken to alleviate present misery and to institute long-range reforms, designed to raise the standard of living in distressed countries," the statement continued.

The agency cited a fourfold obligation of the United States: to share our abundance; to welcome the immigrants; to promote and cooperate with world policies of resettlement and to aid underdeveloped nations.

"Even though our record has been good, it is nevertheless not inappropriate to conduct a careful examination of the needs of the world to see whether we have done all within our power," the statement said.

ONE OF NINE questions posed was: "Is the total number of quota immigrants too low, considering the immense economic strength of our nation? Is it certainly so kind as to admit immigrants if there are no jobs available, but the ability of our economy to offer jobs has steadily and vigorously risen."

May We Limit Our Family To Enjoy Nicer Things In Life?

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Is it wrong for us to want a small family of about four children if the reason is that we would like to have some of the nicer things (such as vacations, new clothes, car, home, etc.) for our family and ourselves — provided, of course, that no artificial means are used to limit the family?

It appears from your letter that you have not been married very long and are now engaged in building your nest as they say. Sincerely speaking, from the viewpoint of the moral law, you are free to want as many or as few children as you please.

This is to say, you are not obliged to desire any specific number, so if you feel that four would be about right, that's up to you. Since you recognize that the means you use to achieve the desired number must be in conformity with God's laws, this about handles the question of your positive moral obligations in the matter.

But the question of how many children to desire should not be answered solely on the basis of moral obligations. Children represent one of the major blessings or "goods" of marriage, hence the Church has always pointed out that the privilege of cooperating with the Creator in the procreation and education of children is one of the chief benefits of marriage.

According to the divine plan, parenthood is designed to call forth and develop some of the finest qualities in fathers and mothers, leading to their full self-realization and perfection as mature Christians.

PARENTHOOD involves the total process of childbearing and child rearing. By its very nature it requires a couple to work together in the establishment of a stable, loving society or home in which children can be born and reared to Christian maturity.

This procreation represents only the first step; it is the patient, careful, time and energy-consuming task of rearing children up to the status of independent Christian adulthood that makes parenthood essentially a developmental and sanctifying vocation.

For this reason, Catholic



teaching does not emphasize mere numbers or family size. Although children are one of the major blessings of marriage, their ideal number is relative to the capacities and peculiar circumstances of the individual couple that must bear and rear them to maturity.

On the other hand, parents who have succeeded in raising a large family to maturity in accord with Christian norms show that they have been richly blessed, both in their numerous children and in the personal qualities and social circumstances required to fulfill this task. When Church leaders justly praise the successful parents of a large family, they are not emphasizing a number alone, rather, they are commending parents for a big job well done.

The Church does not tell you how many children you should or may have. The function of the Church as the divinely established teacher of men is to clarify the nature and purposes of life and of marriage, to define the moral laws that pertain to the marriage vocation and, through preaching and the dispensing of sacramental graces, to support the faithful in their pursuit of holiness.

Control Said No Threat To Candidates

Washington — (NC) — U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana said he does not believe the current birth control controversy will hurt the chances of any potential presidential candidate.

Sen. Mansfield said (Dec. 7) the country is "more broad minded, more understanding and more tolerant" than in 1928 when Gov. Alfred E. Smith of New York, a Catholic heading the Democratic ticket, lost his race for the presidency.

"The country as a whole realizes that if a man becomes President he is bound by the Constitution and must act accordingly," said Sen. Mansfield, a Catholic.

He added that challenging potential presidential candidates regarding their stand on the birth control question "is bringing religion into the campaign."

However, Sen. Mansfield said, so far as the question itself is concerned, I think it is purely academic, because there is no intention it will be made a government policy.

On Thanksgiving Day the U.S. Bishops issued a statement declaring that Catholics will not support using public funds to foster birth control in this country or abroad.

Following attacks on the Bishops' statement, several possible presidential nominees gave their stand on the birth control issue.

Meanwhile, Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota has said he believes the issue will be raised at the 1960 national political conventions.

But birth control will not be a major issue in the presidential campaign, and a Catholic could be elected president, Sen. McCarthy, a Catholic, told a Democratic dinner in Detroit.

Polish College Marks 15 Years

Lublin — (NC) — The Catholic University of Lublin has observed the 15th anniversary of its reopening.

Representatives of the Church, government and schools attended the celebration at the university, which was reopened after World War II.

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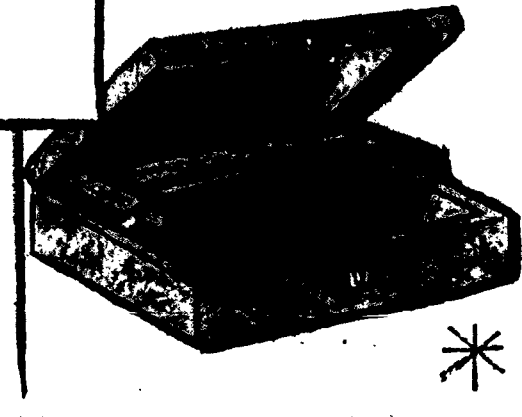
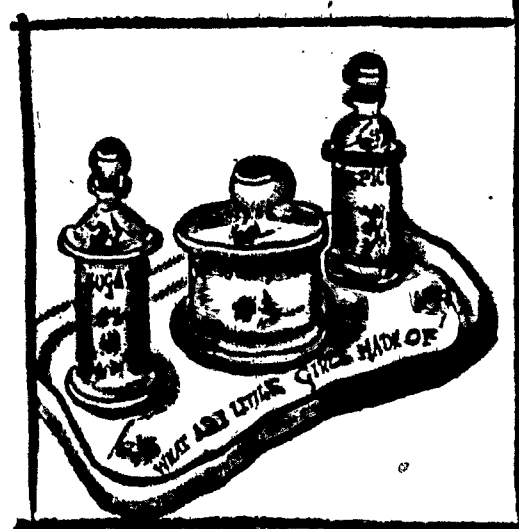
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