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Is Third Commandment Constitutional?

Top Court To Rule On Sunday Laws

Health, Not Religion Said Main Factor

BY RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

The United States Supreme Court, in an action that will be watched with keen interest by religious groups throughout the United States, has agreed to hand down a definitive ruling that will determine, once and for all, whether legislation curtailing business activities on Sunday is constitutional.

The court has agreed to hear three cases, challenging the state laws of Maryland, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. Several other cases, now headed toward the high court of appeals, may be consolidated with these three, for the court, its docket for this session crowded, is expected to postpone its hearing until next October, so that it can give careful study to the difficult question.

Crux of the question is whether the Third Commandment, "Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day" can be enforced by state or federal laws.

Religious leaders of most denominations are agreed the Sabbath law forbids "unnecessary" work on Sunday, the Christian Sabbath.

Opponents of Sunday legislation contend that it violates separation of Church and State, as provided in the First Amendment to the Constitution, because it endeavors to enforce through civil law what is essentially a religious observance of a "day of rest."

They also claim that it deprives them of equal protection of the laws, in violation of the 14th Amendment, in that state laws permit some businesses to operate on Sunday, while prohibiting others. This is discrimination under law, say the appellants, and deprives them of property without due process of law, since they are denied the use and profit of their business premises, while competitors are free from such restrictions.

DEFENDERS of the Sunday laws admit that in colonial days the original acts were designed to enforce religious customs of the Puritans, Calvinists and the established churches of several colonies. The old titles like "An Act for the Keeping of the Sabbath" disclose this, as does some of the old phraseology, such as "Whoever shall on the Lord's Day be found performing labour other than Works of Necessity . . ."

However, they contend that the laws have long since ceased to be religious in purpose and merely provide that a day of rest shall be observed in business or trade, for the benefit of health and welfare of owners and employees.

Unless the law bans commercial activities on one day of the week, experience has proved, they say, that some eager merchants will stay open seven days a week and force their competitors to do likewise.

This has happened in community after community, when one chain of supermarkets or one electrical appliance store decides to remain open and promote special "Sunday sales." Other merchants soon follow, despite indignant protests from church groups and from their own employees.

A great majority of American churches look with disfavor upon Sunday commercial activities.

While many of the so-called "blue laws" were enacted under Protestant influence, the Maryland law was enacted in a state which was originally settled by Catholics.

The Catholic Church has taken the lead in many areas in asking stricter enforcement of Sunday laws and, in some instances, has initiated successful boycotts of chain stores which insisted on Sunday openings.

On the other hand, some Protestant and Jewish groups oppose restrictive legislation. Seventh-day Adventists who, like Jews, observe their Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, complain that the legislation discriminates against their members, forcing them to observe two sabbaths. They argue that such laws prefer one religion over another, in violation of the Constitution.

State legislatures of several states, in an effort to protect the rights of minorities, have provided that merchants who conscientiously observe a day

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Cathedral Family Program

Makes Babies Better Christians

Cathedral parishioners Mrs. Hugh Allen, Mrs. Maurice Gormican and Mrs. Herbert Matile chart schedule of Family Life Committee which aids parents in religious training of pre-school children.

One of the Diocese's most vigorous family-centered programs is now marking its sixth year of activity.

The project has a record of 6,529 visits to homes and 1,346 children enrolled.

It is the Committee for Christian Home and Family, directed by Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey to aid parents in his Sacred Heart Cathedral parish in the religious education of their pre-school children.

The Committee is a group of 80 women called "visitors" named by Bishop Casey for this special service.

When a baby is brought to the Cathedral to be baptized, the priest presents the parents with a card which explains the work of the Committee and serves as an introduction to the visitor.

Mrs. Maurice J. Gormican is chairman of the committee.

When the baby is three months old, the visitor calls at the home and presents the mother with the initial leaflet. Another leaflet is given at six months and at three month intervals thereafter, until the child is three years old.

THE SERIES of twelve leaflets, each suitable to the age of the child, contains suggestions and Christian thoughts which aid parents in teaching the child the basic principles of the Catholic faith and the proper development of character.

During the past six years, the program has been enthusiastically received by the people of Sacred Heart, Mrs. Gormican reports. Parents appreciate the recognition and interest of the Church and their pastor in the important role of raising a family, she said.

Recently, the Cathedral Committee adopted a new series of leaflets, called the "Parent Educator," which is more up to date and in line with modern trends.

The Committee was given permission to reprint the Parent Educator leaflet series by the archdiocese of Dubuque, where it originated.

MRS. GORMICAN said the Cathedral Committee would send their literature to parish groups requesting it.

Currently 342 children are enrolled in the program. Each visitor averages one or two calls a month and many lasting friendships have been established.

"Graduates" of the six year program are now kindergarten and first grade pupils. Parishioners note children are better behaved in church, are devout at prayer and sincerely practice simple virtues.

A Goal For Mother's Day

America will honor its mothers this Sunday, May 8.

Sons and daughters — ranging in age from pre-school youngsters to mature adults — will have their own special ways of expressing on this day a thought they have every day, the thought of deep gratitude and respect for mother.

The faithful are reminded that as good as bouquets and banquets are the best gift a mother wants is a virtuous child.

Our Mass, Holy Communion and prayers this Sunday will be not only a prayer for mother but for ourselves that we can begin to measure up to her idea of us.

In Navy Now

Miss Patricia Ann Murtaugh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Murtaugh of 400 Broadway, Elmira has received a commission as an ensign in the Navy Nurse Corps. She will receive eight weeks of indoctrination training at Newport, R. I. before permanent assignment at St. Albans, (L. I.) Naval Hospital. Miss Murtaugh is a graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1959. Since her graduation, Miss Murtaugh was employed as a staff nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Seminary Entry Test

Students outside the Rochester area will take their entrance test for St. Andrew's Seminary tomorrow, Saturday, May 14, at 10 a.m., at the following schools:

For those in the Elmira area, the test will be given at Notre Dame High School; Auburn area, at Mt. Carmel High School; Geneva area, DeSales High School; Hornell area, St. Ann's school.

Prospective seminarians are to bring a letter of recommendation from their pastor. The test and interview will take about two hours, Monsignor Richard Quinn, rector, said.

Community Chest Mass

Holy Mass will be offered for the success of the Rochester area Community Chest - Red Cross drive at St. Joseph's Church, Sunday, May 8, at 11:30 a.m.

Monsignor Arthur E. Balligan, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, will celebrate the Mass and Father Henry Atwell, editor of the Courier Journal, will give the sermon.

The public is invited to the Mass.

Chessman Dies Still In Doubt

Caryl Chessman died as he lived, an agnostic, still in doubt whether God existed or not.

"Now he knows," a witness to his execution remarked when the climax came to the convict-author's 12 year battle to escape San Francisco's death chamber.

A priest and a minister were with Chessman during his last hour.

"I hoped it might be possible for me to accept religion," he told them, "but I can't do it at this point. It would be hypocritical."

He repeated he was innocent of the crimes for which he was sentenced to die. "I hope you will believe this," he said to the clergymen.

See Inside

Town of Greece Pioneers New School Bus Law

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Tabloid

Monroe County subscribers will receive with this week's Courier Journal a special 12 page advertising tabloid showing new Schantz Homes.

If you do not receive the tabloid, phone the Circulation Department, BAker 5-6210 and one will be sent to you.

Keep Feet On Ground

Vatican City — (RNS)—Pope John XXIII, at an audience to a group of Italian farmers, cautioned them against "thinking that celestial problems must make you forget or neglect things down here."

"Just the opposite," he said. "One must keep one's feet firm on the ground if one intends to work for the bettering of the workers' condition."

Pope John ended his talk on a jovial tone by saying that if he had not already made his mind up at the age of nine to become a priest, he might have been a farmer himself, as was his brother Giuseppe.

Steel Firm Aids College

St. Louis — (NC) — An Illinois steel firm has presented a gift of $100,000 to St. Louis University for its 150th Anniversary Development Program, it was announced here.

Father Paul C. Reinert, S.J., the university's president, said that $75,000 of the gift from the Granite City Steel Company will be used by the university in the initial five-year phase of the development program. The remaining amount will be added to the building fund for the Pius XII Memorial Library.

Pope On May Day

Workers' Rights Upheld

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope John XXIII warned here against "mistaken ideologies" which rob the worker of his "greatness" and reduce him to a "tool of struggle."

In a ten-minute address broadcast by the Vatican Radio in observance of the feast of St. Joseph the Workman, the Pontiff condemned false social ideologies which either "exalt unbridled freedom" for the laboring class or "suppress man's personality."

Rebuking atheistic Communism, Pope John said attempts have been made to "sow discord among workers pitting various ranks of life against each other, and trying to sever the laboring class from God."

"Our heart weeps when it considers that so many of our children, though honest and upright, have allowed themselves to be influenced by such theories."

Stressing the application of Christian principles to the solution of social ills, the Pope said that workers have forgotten that the only approach to their labor problems is to be found in the Gospels.

He assured workers that the Catholic Church would continue its fight for better living and working conditions.

"We shall not miss the opportunity," he said, "to ask responsible people with means to see to it that you are guaranteed continuously improving living and working conditions, and especially the right to a stable and dignified job."

People in responsible positions, he added, "should spontaneously meet their (workers) legitimate demands as free men created in God's image and likeness."

Earlier, the Pope appeared at a window of his Vatican residence to bless a large crowd of workers who had gathered in St. Peter's Square for an open-air Mass.

The Feast of St. Joseph the Workman was instituted in 1955 by the late Pope Pius XII who designated May 1 for its observance. It is regarded as a Christian counterpart to the Communist May Day observance as labor day.

St. Joseph is the workingman's saint in the Church's calendar because he was a tradesman all his life.

$12 Billion Tax Aid For Public Schools

Washington — (NC) — The U.S. Office of Education said $12 billion was spent to support the nation's public schools in the 1957-58 school year, a fivefold increase since the 1937-38 total of $2.2 billion.

It said about $7 billion came from local taxpayers, largely through property taxes, about $4.5 billion from state taxes and $452 million from the Federal government.

The office, a division of the U.S. Division of Health, Education and Welfare, reported these estimated figures in its fourth study of public school financing, entitled "Public School Financing Programs of the United States, 1957-58."

In 1937, it said, local taxpayers contributed 69 per cent of the support, while in 1957, they contributed 55 per cent. State appropriations during the same time went from 29 per cent to 41 per cent, and Federal support from one per cent to four per cent.

Suburbs, Centers Of Selfishness

Washington — (RNS) — If there is any religious revival in the suburbs it is a "purely selfish, self-centered, me-and-God religion with precious little social concern," a prominent Roman Catholic layman declared here.

Dr. John J. O'Connor, professor of history at Georgetown University, told a Family Life Institute sponsored by the archdiocese of Washington that "the most obvious fact about the typical American suburb is that it is an artificial and segregated white ghetto."

"THE SUBURB is a never-never land which provides poor training for life for our children in a multi-racial world where poverty is something more than a disagreeable dream that will go away," said Dr. O'Connor.

"How can Catholic parents go about the task of acquainting their carefully-immunized children with the world as it really is?" he asked, suggesting that one way might be to accept into suburbs as neighbors all people of good character, regardless of race, creed, or color.

Another characteristic of suburbia is the gusto with which Catholic families seek to serve both God and Mammon," he told the family institute, asserting that "Catholics are trying to be status-seekers in this world and also in the Heavenly kingdom."

"Parish togetherness in suburbia" too often means that everything is centered in the parish, said Dr. O'Connor, in "nonsensical, time-wasting parish trivia" so that there is little time to consider significant community and world problems.

"Aside from a kind of placid middlebrow suburban culture, some Catholics have a strong desire for spiritual maturity, a desire to grow in Christian knowledge and wisdom," Dr. O'Connor concluded. He challenged suburban parishes to provide for the real spiritual needs of the laity and to give the laity "a role, however humble, in planning the future."

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LAST WEEK'S PAID CIRCULATION

Orange Blossom Diamond Rings. Terms. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 Main St. East.—Adv.

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our no-agent plan. TROTT BROS., 1120 Mt. Hope GR. 3-3371.—Adv.

Hi-Chair Kids Bouts

GENE REENERS, coach and trainer, gives some last minute pointers to Billy Bari, left, and Ray Teague in preparation for the annual Hi-Chair Kids Bouts at Immaculate Conception auditorium Monday night.

Africa's Ghana

New Nation's Progress

While South Africa seethes in segregation battles, a new nation in Northern Africa strides in freedom.

Progress in Ghana, still in its first years of independence, has been amazing, a veteran missionary reported this week.

Visiting the Courier Journal office, the effervescent Father Charles G. Erb, S.V.D., related plans for a project to bring northern Africa its first Catholic radio station, a school of foreign service and newspapers for all Catholic dioceses.

Divine Word Father Erb is well known locally as exhibit manager of the mammoth Mission Sceneramа held in Rochester's War Memorial in 1958.

He returned to Rochester recently from Rome where he discussed his long-range projects with Pope John.

The Divine Word Father's return to Ghana this year was his first visit in five years and he was overwhelmed by the magnificent change in the new republic, until recent years a protectorate of the United Kingdom.

The fantastic progress, Father reports, includes everything from air-conditioned hotels to numberless new roads, schools and vast housing construction projects.

The Catholic Church is highly respected by the Ghanians and several Catholics hold high offices in the government's cabinet. In the diocese of Accra alone, there are almost 200 new government built schools, many of them given to the care of Catholic missionaries.

With a population of some 5 million, Ghana has about 800,000 Catholics. The country's income is derived mainly from the cultivation of cocoa. Ghana produces about 30 per cent of the world's output.

Father Erb will soon head back to his beloved Ghana to found a new mission in the inland diocese of Tamale. While in the states, he is conferring with Georgetown University regarding technical arrangements for the proposed radio station.

Honor your Mother on her day, Sunday, May 8, by wearing a flower. Wear white in her memory, a colored flower if she is living. Blanchard Florist, 317 Lake Ave., or call GL. 3-2020.—Adv.