

Freedom Asked In Education

Bologna—(NC)—The bishops of Italy's Romagna (northeast) region have issued a letter, stressing the right of parents to educate children in schools of their choice.

The bishops said it is "their duty to call to the attention of Catholics the urgent and grave problems of the schools."

The schools, the bishops said, "should be free, in the sense that parents, making use of a natural right, can send their children to that school which offers a complete guarantee of protecting their religious and moral principles, and this without unjust and heavy burdens."

They called Catholics to recognize their duty "to sustain and defend this fundamental principle." They also urged priests and Catholic organizations "to give timely illustration to this basic aspect of the school question so that Catholic Italians can make their voices heard."

At the root of the question is a new school bill before the Italian parliament.

Last December 15 a group of Christian Democratic deputies introduced a rider to the bill, proposing that annual contributions be granted to students attending private schools which have status equal to that of state schools. The grant called for would be equal to 80 percent of the per capita cost for students in the state schools.

The proposed rider provoked strong opposition from communist, socialist, secularist and liberal sections of the Italian press.

Prayers for Council Madrid — (NC) — Spanish Catholic Action has begun a campaign of prayers for the success of the coming ecumenical council.

Security Hazards

Where Will Kennedy Go To Mass?

Washington — (RNS) — What church will President John F. Kennedy attend?

This is a lively question in Washington and an announcement by the Archdiocese of Washington indicates he will have a choice.

THE PRESIDENT attended Mass on Sunday morning, January 22, his first Sunday in office, at Holy Trinity church in Georgetown where he has been regularly worshipping. However, his Georgetown house at 3307 N Street, Northwest, is said to be for sale, and his official residence is now 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, two miles away.

Msgr. Edward J. Hermann, vice chancellor of the archdiocese said, "Ordinarily, one goes to the church of the parish in which he lives."

"But, for any good reason, one can go to another church," he explained, adding, "That is the general rule here."

The White House is within the bounds of St. Matthew's parish and the President can attend church at St. Matthew's Cathedral of which Msgr. John K. Cartwright is pastor.

Of course, the Kennedys recently purchased a country home at Glenora, near Middleburg, Va., about 40 miles from Washington. If they spend weekends there, as they reportedly plan to do, they will attend Mass at a church in that area, just as President Eisenhower, in recent years, attended the small Presbyterian church in Gettysburg, Pa., more frequently than he did National Presbyterian Church in Washington, of which he was a member.

Regular attendance by a President of the United States has always created a problem at church because tourists like to see the President and, if he regularly attends the same morning worship service at the same place, this is an excellent opportunity to do so.

Regular communicants soon find they have a hard time getting into their crowded church, unless they come early enough to get ahead of the tourists.

It also creates a security problem for the Secret Service, there being no guarantee that a crazed person or fanatic seeking to harm the President will respect the sanctity of a church.

The Secret Service men go along with the President to church. They don't sing the hymns, say the prayers, or kneel. It isn't that they are irreligious. It's that their job is to protect the President and see that no one approaches him undetected while he is at worship.

Aquinas graduate Robert Snow of Rochester is one of the Secret Service men assigned to accompany the President.

If the President attends different churches, it also creates problems for the Secret Service, in that they have to make an inspection of every building the President is going to enter to make sure there are no time bombs planted and that every entrance is guarded. Churches are no exception to this rule.

The Secret Service also enforces a rule that no one may enter or leave a church when the President is in attendance. Latecomers are carefully screened and seated in the very rear. If anyone rises to leave, a Secret Service man immediately jumps up from his position and escorts the person out, admonishing him as to the rules. The person may be detained for investigation if not a regular member.

This creates problems in whatever church the President attends. It even made for serious problems in the staid old Quaker meeting house to which



President, Wife Attend Mass

Washington — (RNS) — The Rev. Martin J. Casey, pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic church in Georgetown, greets President and Mrs. Kennedy as they leave his church after Sunday Mass. It was the first time since the inauguration that Mrs. Kennedy had accompanied her husband to church in the capital. She had been instructed by her doctors to avoid crowds except when absolutely necessary since the Caesarian birth of her son, John Jr., last November. The Kennedys heard Father Casey deliver a sermon on the infallibility of the Pope on matters of faith and morality.

President Herbert Hoover repaired on Sundays. In a small rural Virginia church, it could create a troublesome situation. It is likely that the new President may adopt the practice of his predecessor, President Eisenhower. When in Washington, the President would vary the hour of his attendance at church, one Sunday going to the 9:15 a.m. service and the next to the 11 a.m. service. If President Kennedy does not attend Mass at the same hour each Sunday, it discourages flightseers.

Churches know in advance when a President is going to attend because the Secret Service notifies the pastor and makes the usual security check. But for which a person is supposed to save phone calls to the Rev. Martin J. Casey, S.J., pastor of Holy Trinity, it can be disclosed that the rector never, never tells. The priests at the churches President Kennedy will attend will keep his plans in strict confidence. Worshippers are always welcome, including those from other cities. If the President doesn't come, it can always be borne in mind that the purpose of entering church is to worship God.

Dog Sled Missioner Finds Warm Hearts In Sub. Zero

Goose Bay — (RNS) — Black Tickle, a hunting and fishing village 46 miles from here, had not seen a Catholic priest for two years until an American Air Force chaplain arrived there to spend one of the most memorable days of his ministry. Within five hours, Father Mario di Lella, O.F.M., had administered five Sacraments after journeying for seven hours by dog sled from the Air Force base here in temperatures averaging ten degrees below zero. In addition, he blessed the graves of four people who had died without a priest to comfort them.

Father Mario said Mass for the village's 100 inhabitants — Indians, Eskimos and white settlers — in a small shack that serves also as a school. He performed three marriages, three baptisms and 13 confessions. He also heard confessions to six persons. Since he is a missionary, Father Mario has special facilities to administer Confirmation.

The chaplain made the four-Photos Aid Program Waterville — (NC) — Photos taken at Maine's St. Francis de Sales School here by representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be used throughout the country to promote the department's school lunch program.

Food, Medicine Rushed To Congo

Leopoldville — (NC) — Food and medical supplies from the worldwide relief agency of American Catholics have been rushed to the Congo, where hundreds of civilian refugees from the new nation's civil war have been dying of disease and starvation.

American warships brought the supplies from Togo, about 1,200 miles to the northwest. They are being distributed through the United Nations.

THIS FIRST shipment of supplies from Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference included 500 tons of cornmeal, 50 tons of powdered milk and 500 tons of medicines such as multivitamins, sulfa drugs and antibiotics.

Meanwhile, CRS-NWC is organizing a permanent agency in the Congo for distribution of relief supplies.

Msgr. Wilson E. Kaiser, (a native Rochesterian) the agency's permanent representative in Africa, announced here that CRS-NWC would operate in conjunction with Caritas-Congo, the national welfare agency of Congolese Catholics.

Lawson B. Mooney flew here from New York to be permanent representative of CRS-NWC in the Congo. He will supervise future distribution of relief supplies in cooperation with Father Andrew Cauwe, S.J., director of Caritas-Congo. Msgr. Kaiser was accompanied on his trip here from his headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, by his French assistant, Norbert Clement.

It was Msgr. Kaiser's second trip to the Congo to arrange distribution of aid. He came here last July when the Congo received independence from Belgium, but political upheavals prevented completion of his project.

Father Cauwe declared: The situation is desperate in Kasal province. If immediate assistance is not forthcoming, international aid will lose all meaning. Goods must be sent at once while we wait for bigger sums of money, otherwise it would be better to send coffins."

W. Africa Churches Form Union

Dakar — (NC) — Archbishop of six newly independent west African countries have set up an organization to deal with common problems.

The Assembly of West African Archbishops is the second organization of bishops at an international level. The first is the Latin American Bishops' Council. It will meet twice yearly. Six permanent commissions were set up, each headed by an archbishop, to deal with the teaching of catechism, social affairs, lay action, education, seminars and the press.

New nations represented—all of them parts of former French West Africa — are Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Dahomey and Togo. These countries have a total population of 15,359,000 and 809,859 Catholics.

African Radio Mamba — (NC) — New, more powerful transmitters for broadcasts in African languages will begin operations at Easter at Pax, Catholic radio station here.

Britain Teacher Lack Bottlenecks Expansion

London — (NC) — Plans to expand Britain's Catholic education program are faced with a bottle neck — a shortage of teachers.

Catholic education experts have the right number of staff to teach them." Schools might multi-million-dollar system now be asked to take Non-Catholic being developed depends less teachers to close the gap, he on money to build new schools said. Bishop Andrew Beck, A.A. of Salford, the English Bishop of Manchester's ops' delegates for educational Chief Education Officer, told a matters, said it is urgent to meeting there that within the encourage more students to be next 10 years local education come teachers. New teachers' authorities will have to tell the training colleges and expansion Catholic schools: "You cannot of present ones are needed, he take more children until you said.

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