

Baptists OK Birth Control

Fort Worth — (RNS)—Birth control and planned parenthood measures were endorsed as "both permissible and desirable" by a group of Baptists attending a state-wide, two-day workshop here on Christianity in family life.

Officials said it was the first Baptist meeting of its kind to try to meet head-on the problems of divorce, planned parenthood and family counseling. Roman Catholic views opposing the use of artificial birth control methods were discussed.

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Liturgists Seek New Members

Washington — (NC) — The national Liturgical Conference is launching the "biggest membership drive in its 22-year history," Father Frederick R. McManus, the president, announced here.

"If the sacred liturgy is to have its proper place in the consciousness of the Church in America," he said, "more priests and people must become active in the program of renewal outlined by the Holy See."

Father McManus, a member of the Canon Law faculty at the Catholic University of America, said more than 55,000 letters are being mailed in the first phase of the campaign.

THE LETTERS will go to all pastors and diocesan clergy in the U.S., to some 15,000 lay people, to religious orders, and to many Catholic institutions.

The second phase of the drive

will include efforts to reach national, diocesan and parish organizations of lay people.

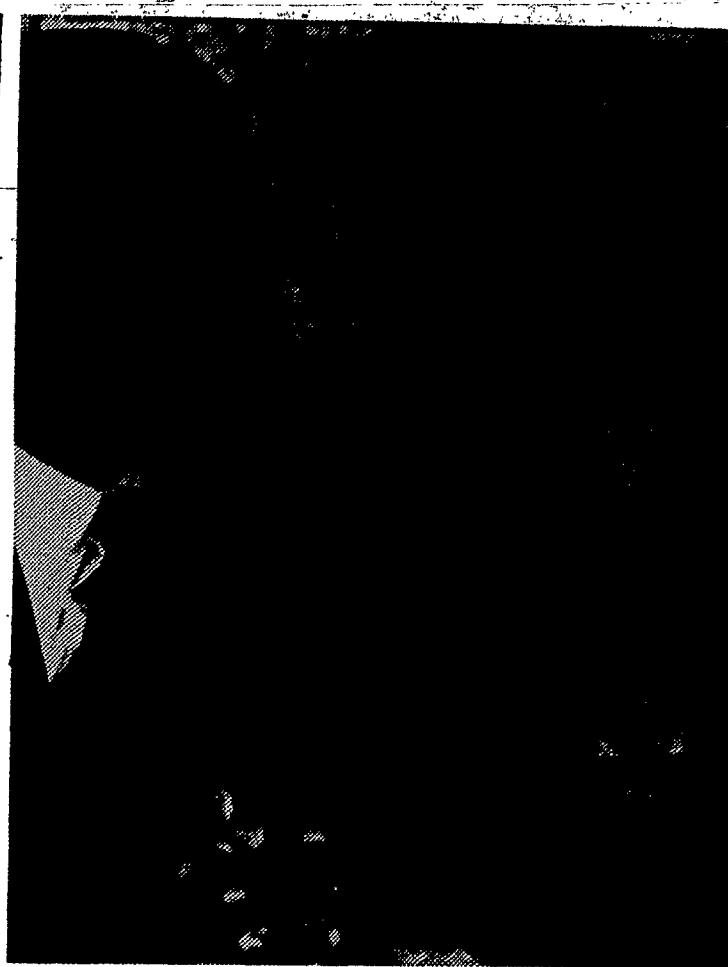
John B. Mannion, the Liturgical Conference's executive secretary, is conducting the membership campaign. Mr. Mannion defined the conference this way:

"It is a voluntary association of bishops, priests, Religious and lay people who are interested in promoting greater appreciation of the Church's worship, and especially in assisting in the implementation of the Holy See's instructions and wishes concerning active congregational participation in the Mass."

Two Priests Expelled By Red Congo Leaders

Usumbura — (NC) — Two priests who were leaders in Catholic youth movements in the eastern part of the Congo have been expelled by the new pro-Red regime in Kivu province.

The two are Father Georges Defour, W.F., founder and leader of the Xaveri, eight-year-old religious movement for young people which now has close to 50,000 members, and Father Jean Mirohu and his government on Christmas night.



Nyerere Visits Cardinal

Cologne — (RNS) — Joseph Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, pays rapt attention to Tanganyika's Chief Minister Julius Nyerere. The cardinal officiated at ceremonies here opening a Catholic institution to train young African Catholics for leadership. Called Afrikanun, the institution is sponsored by the missionary society of White Fathers. A prominent guest at the institute has been Chief Minister Nyerere who is regarded as one of the most gifted Catholic politicians in Africa.

BOOK SHELF

Approach To Calvary

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA, Nazareth College

Approach To Calvary, by Herbert Van Zeller, O.S.B. Sheed '61. 128 pp. \$2.95. Illustrations: the author's 14 sculptures of the Stations of the Cross.

This is a little book to fit a generous pocket and a generous palm, to look at and look into and mull over. It offers "seeds of contemplation," handfuls of uncompromising ideas, uncommon sense, about how to live and die. The yield will be big or small as the reader wills; if these ideas get hot-house care, there can be an array of living green by Easter that may eventually flower.

AT THE FIRST Station, "we come bearing our own crosses," and in the Second and Third, we study out the meaning of Acceptance and of Failure. "God has shut up my ways with square stones; he has turned my paths upside down," and I must suffer defeat as Christ did, fall on the road and drag myself up again — but "there is no question here of desperation, panic, self-pity, rebellion," because we have reserves: we are with Christ.

Four, Five, and Six bring us the look outward: we are with Mary and Simon and Veronica, the idea of Compassion, then and of Cooperation and of Generosity. Just the single word as one of my colleagues said furnishes new thought for each Station. Then comes the deeply impressive Seventh, "Christ's cross, discouragement."

"If we are bearing witness to the same truth, opposing the same evil, moving in the same

direction, then the same means must be used by us as those which were used by Christ — namely, patience and endurance in the all-but-defeating experience of life." "A man cannot deny his discouragement. All he can do is deny himself the luxury of discouragement. . . . If he knew more of Christ, he would know that he had misinterpreted His experience, and that life is not at all insupportable." It is by looking at things this way that we will be able to "bring at the most significant level comfort to others who are desolate."

THE EIGHTH, on intention, is such a surprise that quoting would be unfair. How often have we listened to Our Lord's "Weep not for Me" and not analyzed the last part? Nor ought I quote from the reflections on the Third Fall, which concern those days when we find no glamour in theories of suffering or in thoughts of unending trial. "The cross is something which we see by," though — the cross is our traveling light — this idea demands to be followed up.

Ten is on Detachment: "Layer after layer of self has to come off." Loss of goods, loss of friends, loss of standing, the drink of gall — Well, one can see that not commas nor semicolons nor periods nor anything short of abysses of space should separate these one from another. These are degrees of suffering, and the last is the "experience of truth burning its way into the soul," truth about our inmost self's "evasions, part-playing" — bearable, after all, in Christ.

There remain the Nailing (Perseverance), the Consumption, the Aftermath, and Waiting (the Fourteenth Station). That "waiting" Station is no afterthought, says Father Van Zeller. It most definitely belongs in the series and in life. "The whole of man's life is a waiting, and if we learn how to do that right, we have found the answer. . . . The man who has made up his mind about death," for instance, "Whether to face it if he fears it or to endure delay if he hungers for it, is in a position to live for God and die for God." "When we come to the deepest of our sufferings," the waiting is very quiet. God must know what we feel. "It is the Passion, not smothering nor crushing but rather stilling and making ready."

In a page or two of Epilogue comes a renewal of the vital suggestion of this book: The Passion requires that we turn our hearts and minds to it, that we go into it with our whole attention and intention. We cannot afford not to know Christ in His Passion.

Largest Fund Drive

Newark — (RNS) — The Archdiocese of Newark will officially launch its \$25-30 million fund-raising campaign March 5 for a proposed construction program throughout four northern New Jersey counties.

Described as one of the most ambitious fund drives undertaken by a Catholic diocese in the U.S., the campaign will raise money for seven new parishes, high schools, four convents, a hospital and an

Ancient Pontiff Loses Throne

Vatican City — (NC) — An eighth-century priest who was elected pope but died two days later, before being consecrated a bishop, has been eliminated from the Church's list of popes.

The Holy See's 1961 yearbook has eliminated from its list of popes the name of Stephen II, who was elected March 23, 752, and died March 25 of an apostolic fit. His immediate successor took the name of Stephen III.

A footnote in the new edition of the yearbook explains that since Stephen II was never consecrated a bishop, which according to the canon law of the time would have been the true beginning of his pontificate, he was never truly a pope.

Previous editions of the yearbook also noted that Stephen II had not been considered a pope by his contemporaries, and that his name was not found in other lists of the popes.

The yearbook now lists his immediate successor as Pope Stephen II, and gives subsequent popes named Stephen correspondingly lower numbers along with their former numbers in parentheses. For example: Stephen II (III), Stephen III (IV).

With this new adjustment in the lists of the popes it is reckoned that there have been 261 pontiffs from St. Peter to His Holiness Pope John XXIII.

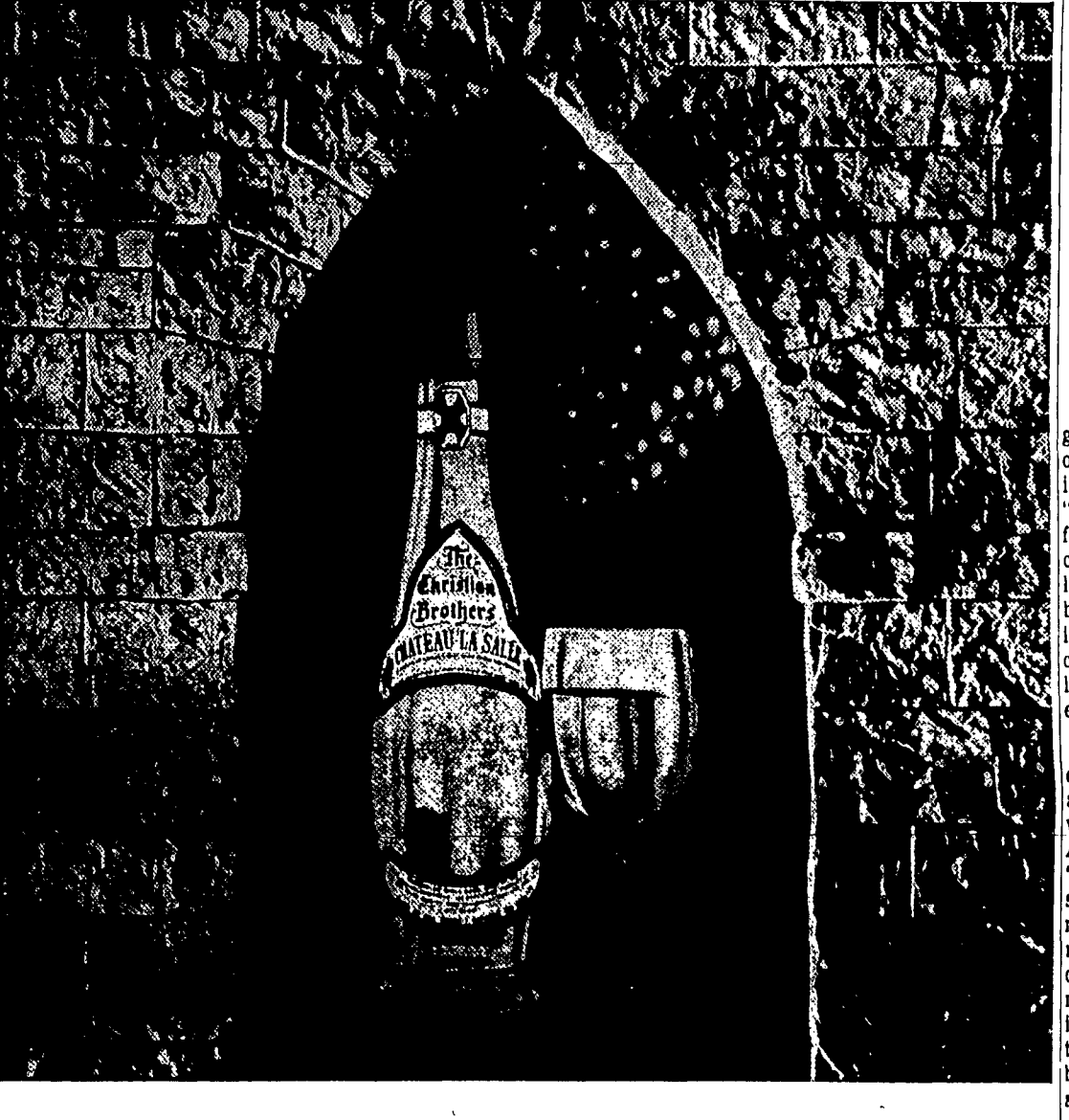
Rector in Spain
Valladolid — (RNS) — Msgr. Edwin Henson, rector of St. Alban's Seminary here, commonly known as the English College, died at the age of 72.

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