



### Blindness

Father Thomas J. Carroll, a Boston Catholic priest, is the author of a new book, "Blindness: What It Is, What It Does, And How To Live With It." He is director of the Boston Archdiocese's Catholic Guild for All the Blind and St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center for newly blinded adults in Newton, Mass. Associated with the Boston guild for 23 years, Father Carroll is national chaplain of the Blinded Veterans Association. The publication of his new book coincides with the 25th anniversary by Little, Brown & Co. of the founding of the Boston guild.

### Architects Of Unity

Washington — (RNS)—The theme of 1961 National Catholic Youth Week — "Youth — Unity — Truth" — won the praise of President Kennedy who urged that "our American youth, whether they are students or workers, consider the theme carefully."

In saluting the program planned from Oct. 29 through Nov. 5, Mr. Kennedy said that "young people who generously serve the truth are the architects not only of our living national unity, but also of that world unity of free men which can be the great prize of our times."

"I want to extend to the seven million young people of the National Council of Catholic Youth, which reaches to the dioceses, parishes, schools and universities of this nation, my warm encouragement as they observe National Catholic Youth Week."

### 10 Million Methodists

Chicago — (RNS) — Passing the ten million mark, membership in The Methodist Church now totals 10,046,293, according to statistics released here for the fiscal year ending May 31. This represents an increase of 135,552 over the 1959-60 figure.

The new total includes 28,254 ministers, but not the 1,863,367 preparatory members on Methodist church rolls throughout the country.

## People's Language Asked For Mass

London — (RNS) — A proposal that Catholic services in England be conducted mainly in English or Welsh where suitable, instead of in Latin, was made by the Vernacular Society of Great Britain here.

In a memorandum to the Preparatory Commission for the forthcoming Second Vatican Council, the society said that full participation by the faithful in church services is practically impossible with an all-Latin liturgy.

If the liturgy is to be an adequate expression of public worship, it said, use of the people's own language is a practical necessity at least in parts of the services.

## Righteous Cause, Wrong Weapons

Las Vegas — (RNS) — Catholic newspapers were cautioned here to avoid support of extremist anti-Communist organizations and "hate groups" in their efforts to combat communism.

Gerard E. Sherry, managing editor of the Central California Register, official organ of the Diocese of Monterey-Fresno, said while the Catholic press "must be in the vanguard of the fight against the Communist menace — its weapons must be basically Catholic."

Sherry addressed the general assembly of the Pacific Coast Regional Convention of the Catholic Press Association.

In the fight on communism, he said, "some of our editors rush into this area with abandon, praising the efforts of such groups as the John Birch Society, without bothering to understand what these movements are about."

"In like manner," he said, "there has been ominous silence about another extremist group, the Christian Educational Association of Union, N.J., which publishes a periodical entitled 'Common Sense.' This monthly newspaper has been rightly called a 'hate' sheet."

"Its banner headlines have proclaimed that our President, who is also a Catholic, has a Marxist record. 'Common Sense' also pours out hate against Jews and Negroes."

"Alan," said Sherry, "the people who direct it claim to be 'practical Catholics.' What is more tragic is the fact that their claim of support from prominent priests and laymen is no idle boast. This hate sheet is actually sold at some church doors."

The California editor said the Catholic press must not stand idly by while some people use the Church to propagate un-

### Mass Rite In Polish

Vatican City — (NC) — The Holy See has given permission for the Catholic congregations in Poland to chant parts of the Mass in Polish instead of Latin.

It granted Polish bishops the faculty of allowing the people to chant the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Agnus Dei in Polish during the celebration of Mass.

The same decree, issued by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, also allows a lector or commentator to read the Epistle and Gospel in Polish simultaneously with their reading in Latin by the celebrant.



### Famed Organist's Recital

Internationally famous organist Andre Marchal will give an organ concert in St. Mary's Church, Rochester, tonight at 8:15 p.m. Marchal, who is blind, will include several compositions by Bach and Cesar Franck in his recital. The American Guild of Organists, Rochester Chapter, is sponsoring his visit here.

### Newburgh Plan

## Politics in Poverty

Toledo — (RNS) — Obviously referring to the political squabble over the stringent Newburgh, N.Y., welfare code of the newly-elected president of the National Conference of Catholic Charities denounced here the injection of partisan politics into the nation's welfare problems.

Msgr. Michael J. Doyle, of Detroit, said in an interview at the close of the 47th annual meeting of the charities organization that "such blanket attacks on genuine welfare needs as we are now witnessing are harming not only the public welfare but private welfare efforts as well."

"These sweeping assaults on welfare are destroying the basis of compassion upon which help for the needy depends and are a disservice to all who are engaged in this work, both public and private," he declared.

Although he did not mention any names, Msgr. Doyle was apparently referring to recently published reports of Sen. Barry Goldwater's praise for the "Newburgh Code" for welfare operations. The Hudson river community earlier this year adopted a 13-point welfare code which would deny aid to many previously covered, notably unwed mothers who have additional illegitimate children.

The Arizona Republican has announced his support of the code developed by City Manager Joseph McD. Mitchell of Newburgh, while the plan has been attacked by many political leaders including New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller.

In the interview, Msgr. Doyle, who was elected here to succeed Msgr. George H. Guilfoyle of New York as head of the charities organization, commented that "certainly all welfare operations, both public and private, should be subject to constant review and accounting."

"But," he added, "broadside attacks upon public welfare for political purposes make victims of the very people who are most in need of help."

Msgr. Doyle has been director of Catholic Charities in the Toledo diocese for the past 25 years. Msgr. Guilfoyle was elected to the board of directors of the NCCY which maintains 340 charity agencies, 200

### Heads Students

Pittsburgh — (NC) — Michael Valder of Lorain College, Dubuque, Iowa, was elected president of the National Federation of Catholic College Students at the close of the group's convention here.

## Convert Puzzled Over Cases Involving Invalid Marriages

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S. J.  
Sociology Professor St. Louis University

Since I have been a convert for over ten years, I've grown almost as accustomed as born Catholics to "bad" marriages. Yet, I'm still puzzled about some things. My brother-in-law is living in his second invalid marriage — which, one of his wives is my children's aunt? Neither? A family friend just entered a civil marriage with a Catholic previously divorced from an invalid marriage. They have to wait ninety days to get their marriage blessed by the Church, yet were not told to live apart — does the Church consider them married now?

contradictory approach is bound to confuse sincere followers of Christ, for they have been taught to believe that an offense against God can never be taken lightly.

Although many Catholics still regard invalid marriages as seriously sinful, the lax attitude your letter mentions, Hugh, is sufficiently widespread to merit grave concern. Since the Church's teaching on this matter is clear and consistent, how can some Catholics take such an un-Christian view? The principal reasons seem to be the following:

First, there is the influence of the dominant culture. With the exception of the Catholic minority, the majority of Americans regard marriage as a civil contract, entirely under the jurisdiction of the civil courts. These courts lightly dissolve nearly a half million marriage contracts each year, and the majority of the roughly one million persons thus divorced tend to remarry within a few years.

Hence, Americans have come to take divorce and remarriage for granted, and though Catholics maintain that the civil courts have power to deal with only some of the civil effects of the marriage contract, they are necessarily affected by the prevailing climate of opinion in regard to dissolution of the bond.

Second, some Catholics are poorly informed concerning the sacramental nature of the marriage bond and consequently fail to understand the Church's insistence that the civil courts have no jurisdiction over this bond. If Catholics wish to marry, they must marry according to the form prescribed by the Church (before a priest and two witnesses), and moreover, a valid, consummated marriage can be dissolved

only by the death of one of the partners.

Catholics involved in "bad" marriages are simply not married and have no marital rights. When they seek to get this invalid union "fixed up" in the Church, they are not seeking merely the Church's "blessing," they are seeking to enter marriage in the only way that Catholics can enter marriage.

Third, because Catholics living in "bad" marriages are living in serious sin, they are strongly urged to enter a valid marriage if they are free to marry, or to separate from each other if one or both are still bound by a previous valid marriage. Sometimes so much insistence is placed on getting the marriage "fixed up" that people forget serious sin has been committed and grave scandal given. This is likely to give the impression that Catholics make light of such offenses.

Fourth, because they either cannot get their invalid unions "fixed up" or refuse to separate, a surprising number of Catholics are currently living in "bad" marriages. Particularly where young children are involved, such situations create difficult problems for relatives and friends.

Finally, since "bad" or invalid marriages are not marriages, they do not give rise to kinship relationships or confer marital rights. Obviously, it is wrong for Catholics to condone such unions by serving as a member of the wedding party or attending receptions and parties organized on such occasions. Christian charity requires that we should pray for such couples and do what we can to bring them back to the grace of God, but as long as we wish to remain Christians, we must regard their marital status as a sin and a scandal.



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