

Top Court Lacks School Doctrine

Minneapolis — (NC) — The U.S. Supreme Court is unprepared to rule consistently in cases involving the issue of public support for private schools, a priest-lawyer said here.

Father Thomas McDonough declared that the court "still is in search of a doctrine that will give clear and constant meaning to the first amendment religion clauses."

"The time may not be opportune to confront it with a difficult case at the moment," he said.

"But when the proper time does come, the court will have to interpret the First Amendment so it doesn't prevent religious freedom by requiring the imposition of a secular education upon our children, or by enforcing a state monopoly that would make private education possible only for the wealthy."

Father McDonough, chaplain at the University of Chicago, Newman Center and holder of a law degree from the university, spoke here at the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota.

He said there is "no reason why the government can't aid private enterprise in so far as it accomplishes a public purpose," and argued that this principle holds good for private schools as much as for any other private enterprise.

The priest said private schools serve a public purpose by teaching secular subjects and preparing students with secular skills.

He agreed that religious education in private schools is "outside the scope" of public support, but said there is no reason why such schools should not receive public assistance for their secular educational activities.

"No benefit can be given a child or a school because of religion, but neither can a benefit be denied just because the child or school happens to be religious or irreligious," he said.

Father McDonough advised Catholics to make it clear to non-Catholics that they are in favor of the First Amendment's guarantees of religious liberty.

"There is a fear by many Americans that the Catholic community doesn't want separation of Church and State," he noted. "They fear what they call 'another Spain.'"



Saints of Unity

ST. POTAMIAENA . . . would not purchase her freedom at the price of her chastity, and was lowered slowly into a cauldron of boiling pitch at Alexandria in 202. Her mother, St. Marcella, was martyred at the same time. Feastday June 28.

BOOK SHELF

We The People

And We the People, by Rev. Tim O'Neill, Kennedy '61 (Chapman Ltd., England), 248 pp. \$3.00.

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA Nazareth College

Here is a Pacific island true story really out of this modern world but deep in the unchanging world of human nature. "We The People" scarcely knew that World War II happened, even though they were bombed out by Japs and pursuing Americans and set up again (of course) by American material from the Manus Island base.

They are fixed in the past, uncermored with the future, willing to eat up in one feast the total communal wealth if by that means they can gain face with their neighbor village. But they are delightful human beings, and they are written up in a kind of pure Irish understatement (and over) that is fun from beginning to end.

Packed with good sense, too. You never read a missionary work quite like it. Father Tim has brooded cheerfully and fruitfully over his problems, and in the light of loving faith has worked out some astonishing and heartening answers.

In one character, Lima, he has chosen to display two dozen or so human characteristics encountered time and time again in the jungle, and to show us all natives and ourselves in this clear faraway mirror. When you meet Lima, you meet Mr. Man Inognito.

Carmelite Nuns on TV

Stockholm — (NC) — Sweden's television viewers will get an inside glimpse of the country's first cloistered convent since the Reformation.

They will see a television essay this Sunday on daily life of the once-controversial Carmelites at Glumstov, in southern Sweden.

THIS TINY convent stirred up spirited debate in Parliament earlier this year when the government approved its petition for legal recognition.

The parliamentary debate blew hot and cold for five months before Parliament put its seal on the government's approval.

Europe's Little Nations Lead In Vocations

Vienna — (NC) — Despite Europe's chronic shortage of priests, two-thirds of all the priests in the world are European nationals.

This was pointed out in a survey completed by the International Catholic Institute for Social Ecclesiastical Research, which has headquarters here.

The study also showed that although Catholics in Ireland,

The daily press also got into the argument. Radio Sweden's television department recorded the television show within the convent with permission of the community's higher superior in Belgium and of Bishop K. Ansgar Nelson, O.S.B., of Stockholm.

For a week the television team filmed the contemplative nuns at prayer, work and recreation. The nuns make lace and tend their fruit garden in season.

The Carmelite convent was the first religious community to apply for legal recognition under Sweden's 10-year-old Freedom of Religion Act. This law abolished practically all restrictions on Catholics, with the single exception that monasteries and convents cannot establish themselves without formal permission from the government.

Parliamentary approval of this governmental permission was required in the first instance of the law's application.

The government approved the Carmelite petition in January. The practical effect of this approval is that the Carmelite community may expand to 21 nuns. But no such expansion is at present envisioned. Of the convent's eight nuns, six are from Belgium and two are Swedish. The convent was founded in 1955.

Refugees from behind the Iron Curtain have swelled the ranks of Catholics in some European countries and sharpened the shortage of priests, the study noted.

West Germany, which plays host to millions of refugees, now has only one priest for every 1,568 Catholics. Austria is even worse off, with one priest for every 1,578 Catholics.

In Rome itself there are 3,000 Catholics for every priest. The north of Italy is much better off, with one priest per 831 Catholics. In central Italy there is one priest per 1,085 Catholics, and in the south one priest to 1,317 Catholics.

Portugal reports an acute shortage of priests. Switzerland and France are regarded as amply staffed, with priests in most regions.

Saint For Ad Men

New York (NC)—A "Saint for Madison Avenue" movement has been launched here by a public relations man.

Milton Fairman, a assistant vice president of the Borden Co. and president of the Foundation for Public Relations Research and Education, has called upon all public relations and advertising men, regardless of religious affiliation, to get behind a movement to have St. Bernardine of Siena declared the national patron of public relations and advertising.

In an article in Public Relations Journal, published here, Fairman called the 15th Century Franciscan friar one of history's greatest mass communicators. He wrote: "Bernardine's sense of faith, his mastery of techniques, his devotion to peacemaking and humor lift him above sectarianism."

Bowling For Deaf

Newark—(NC)—Teams from 30 chapters of the International Catholic Deaf Association will compete in a bowling tournament here November 11 and 12 at the Bowl-O-Mat lanes.

Few Visit Berlin 'Open' House

BERLIN — (NC) — When communist-ruled East Germany put up the Berlin Open House in August 18 it extinguished the last flickering hope of thousands of East German Christians who had found comfort and consolation at Open House in this divided city.

Open House (Offen Tuer Berlin) is a religious information center operated by the Jesuit Fathers. It has never been advertised much. You wouldn't recognize it in passing along the street because there aren't any bright neon signs telling you it is there. It is on a side street, a block or two from the gay, bustling Kurfurstendamm Strasse, West Berlin's greatest street.

But thousands of East Germans of all faiths, harassed by the Reds in the practice of their religion, found Open House over the years. There they prayed and were able to confer with Catholic priests at any hour of the day or night.

Before the Berlin wall went up, Open House was often filled with communist spies. The priests had to be very cautious in giving information about any of the people who passed through.

An old lady, for example, might inquire about a sister from Leipzig in the Soviet zone who had promised to meet her there. She was to defect to West Berlin and together they would make their way to West Germany. But the priests could never be sure the old lady was not a Red spy seeking information about someone who perhaps was thinking of making her way to freedom but hadn't tried it as yet.

THE JESUIT Fathers set up Open House in a large building which houses a variety of enterprises. Across the street is a bombed-out area now used for a parking lot. Behind Open House, which is located on the first floor, is a narrow alley.

Each conference room has a door leading into that escape alley. Few, if any, of the East Germans who walked into the front door ever walked out of it. They were afraid to be seen seeking spiritual comfort.

The director of Open House is Father Gebhard von Stillfried, S.J. A student of art, he has a mind that knows the liturgy and the value of using liturgical symbols to the fullest.

He is also a student of Marxism. Because Marxism denies God and the soul and is a philosophy of darkness, Father von Stillfried decided to make light shining in darkness the theme of the Open House chapel.

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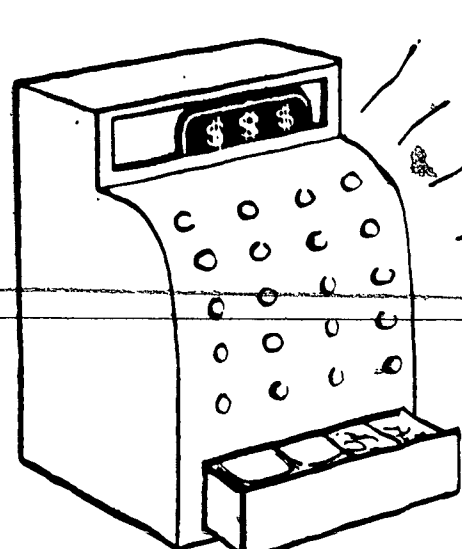
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