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Seton Ball at the Manger

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Wright escort Bishop Kearney to the Seton Ball at Rochester's Manger Hotel Saturday evening. The annual highlight of the autumn social season drew 560 guests for the event which benefits St. Mary's Hospital.

Some Consolation

We're Not Worse

Chicago — (RNS) — There is no justification for the popular idea that modern man is more immoral than his predecessors, a Jesuit priest said here.

"It is well to state flatly that we have no evidence that we are on the whole morally better or worse than earlier ages..."

the Rev. Walter J. Ong, S.J., declared.

Father Ong, a professor of English at St. Louis University, a Jesuit school, spoke at the national convention of the Religious Education Association.

He noted that contemporary society shows evidences of both moral retrogression and moral advance.

As an example of retrogression, Father Ong mentioned the changing marriage standards. Early Americans, he said, thought that marriages should be dissolved for only the most serious reasons and did not believe that divorced persons should remarry.

Moral standards have improved, Father Ong said, in the area of social justice.

"Exploitation of the individual laborer by a relative few in privileged positions such as was tolerated or even regarded as inevitable or good in the past would not be tolerated today," he said. "Slavery is gone, although its consequences still haunt us. Race relations are far from ideal, but are vastly improved and improving."

Jewish Opinion Split On School Aid Issue

Washington — (RNS) — The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America refused here to take a stand on the question of federal aid to church-related schools because of divided opinion among its members.

Delegates to the group's biennial conference shelved the topic by adopting a resolution calling for the formation of a special committee to submit recommendations to the organization's executive body.

Moses I. Feuerstein, president of the union, said he would appoint the committee shortly. The union embraces 3,900 Orthodox congregations in the U.S. and Canada serving 3,000,000 members.

A major reason for the division of opinion among the union members is the Jewish day schools, of which there are about 290 with an enrollment of more than 54,000. Mostly under Orthodox auspices they combine religious and secular subjects. The schools have been subject to financial troubles because of increasing enrollments and limited facilities.

For the last 10 years the union has been opposed to federal aid. But in recent years an increasing number of leaders have been favoring it. They believe that it is the responsibility of the government to make available funds for all pupils in the study of secular subjects.

During debates on the question, Reuben E. Gross, a New York attorney and a member of the union's board of directors, asserted that the separation of Church and State "is a myth propagated by secularists in public life."

He contended that support for religion "is so imbedded into the American system that its elimination would require a complete revamping of our schemes of taxation on the national, state and local levels."

Lay Deacon Role Missions' Need

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — A plea was made at the fourth national Lay Mission Conference of the Council of International Lay Associations here for restoration among the laity of the functions of a deacon.

Father Frederick A. McGuire, C.M., of Washington, D. C., executive secretary of the Mission Secretariat, National Catholic Welfare Conference, lamented the fact that the "functions of deacon have been relegated to the seminary and such duties there as exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or the reading of the Gospel at Mass."

THE NEED of lay deacons today is greater than ever, Father McGuire declared.

"We do not have the priests and religious, and therefore it is absolutely imperative that the laity take active part in the international apostolate," he said. He suggested that ordained deacons the laity could distribute Communion, preach and even be the ordinary minister of Baptism in areas where priests arrive but once or twice a year.

"All that is needed is the word from the Holy Father," he declared. "Some such word as that which inserted the name of St. Joseph into the canon of the Mass."

Father McGuire reminded his audience that "the missionary obligation is incumbent on every man, woman and child

who has received the gift of faith." He added that this obligation applies not only "to people in far away places with strange sounding names, but to the man next door, the person at the next desk."

"We have indulged in the luxury of inaction," he stated. "The laity must exercise to the full their obligations in order that the world may know Christ."

On the theme of economics, Father McGuire stressed the principle "that all men are our brothers and that we are in very truth our brothers' keepers."

"Why should some people continue to live in a state of deprivation because of the non-Christian economic principles of people who have far more than what they need?" he asked.

"Less than ten per cent of the people of this country are occupied in agricultural pursuits," he noted, "yet they feed 90 per cent and leave tremendous surpluses in dead storage at a cost of \$1.5-million a day."

"At the same time, according to United Nations figures, more than 52 per cent of the people of the world go hungry and 75 per cent of the world suffers from malnutrition."

"These are our brothers," Father McGuire said, "and we have an obligation to them."

India Prepares For 1964 Rite

Bombay — (RNS) — Bombay's two Catholic auxiliary bishops appealed here to Indian Catholics to begin a two-year "spiritual preparation" for the 38th International Eucharistic Congress to be held in this city in November, 1964.

Bishops Longinus G. Perera and William Z. Gomes, vice-presidents of the organizing committee for the Congress, made their appeal in the first issue of a monthly bulletin to be published about the 1964 event.

The prelates said that spiritual preparations might begin with a Holy Hour in all Indian Catholic churches and convents. This could be repeated each month, they suggested, until next year when special Eucharistic Days and Novenas would be launched.

Turkey Grid Riot Ends Playoff

Washington — (RNS) — The Catholic Archdiocese of Washington declared a "moratorium" on appearances of its high school teams in the annual Thanksgiving Day City Championship football contest here in the wake of violence which sent 40 persons to hospitals for treatment.

St. John's High School, champion of the Catholic League, won the 19th annual Thanksgiving Day game here, 20 to 7, over Eastern High School, champion of the Public School League.

Following the game at the District of Columbia Stadium attended by 57,000 fans — the largest crowd ever to watch an athletic contest in the nation's capital — fights broke out among departing spectators.

The football games, always marked with spirited competition, now have become an object of racial tension, as well, authorities here said.

Eastern, an all-white high school prior to racial desegregation of public schools here in 1954, now has no white students. St. John's, although racially integrated, as are all Catholic schools in the Washington area, has only two Negro players on its team.

Negro teen-agers were blamed by police for most of the violence which erupted after the game. Of the 40 persons treated at hospitals, 33 were white and seven Negro.

A group of Negro community leaders issued a statement deploring the violence.

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Jesuit University Honors Poet

Detroit — (RNS) — Poet Robert Frost, 88, is honored as America's unofficial poet laureate at ceremonies held at the University of Detroit. He is shown here following the conferring of an honorary doctor of humane letters degree by the Very Rev. Laurence V. Britt, S.J. (right), university president. Later, Mr. Frost addressed an estimated 6,500 students at the Jesuit-conducted institution. Mr. Frost's appearance at the university was sponsored by the school's Friends of the Library.

Nun Honored

Manchester — (NC) — Sister Mary Beatrice was saluted by the New Hampshire branch of the National Association of Biology Teachers as one of the three outstanding biology teachers in the state.

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