

\$5 Million for World's Poor

New York—(NC)—A special radio broadcast of a message by Pope Paul VI on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 12, will inaugurate the 18th annual Bishops' Relief Fund Appeal to aid the world's needy.

The Pope's message will be directed to some six million students in the nation's Catholic elementary and high schools. The broadcast will be carried by the country's major radio networks.

Goal of the 1964 appeal is \$5 million. In recent years the Catholic school students of the nation annually have raised \$1 million for the fund through sacrifices and contributions made throughout the period of Lent.

Principal benefactor of the annual appeal is Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, the worldwide relief and rehabilitation agency maintained by U.S. Catholics.

In carrying out its mission of mercy in areas of distress and misfortune around the globe CRS-NCWC is motivated by a single criterion—need. The agency through its farflung programs distributes food, medicines, clothing, other materials and affords services to the hungry, homeless and barred without regard to race, color or religion.

Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom,

CRS-NCWC executive director recalled that Pope Paul VI in his first Christmas message to the world in 1963 called attention to "the great sufferings, the deep longings, the painful necessities which concern large sections of society or even entire peoples."

The Pope pinpointed hunger as the first of the world's distresses. He said: "It has now been scientifically proven that more than half of the human race has not yet been fed. Entire generations of children, even today, are dying or suffering because of indescribable poverty. It is not merely prosperity that is wanting to us. It is mere sustenance."

Vatican Radio Defends Polish Bishops Courage

Vatican City — (RNS) — Catholic world as well as in the West in general. It said some elements in the Western press "would blame the bishops because complete agreement has not been reached with the Communist authorities of Poland."

"The truth is," it said, "that it is only because of the sincerity and loyalty of the hierarchy that the Church in Poland is strong today. If it had not been for the Polish bishops, the anti-religious officials of the state would have doomed Catholicism in Poland long ago."

In speaking out on behalf of the Polish hierarchy, the Vatican station said it was "unfortunate" that the Communist perversion of the truth had found credence "both in the



A Gift From The Pope

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI turns the leaves of a photocopy of a famous 16th-century work containing 224 illustrations of the work of great Renaissance artists as he presents the gift to West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard. The occasion was an official audience in the German leader, who was accompanied by his wife and Foreign Minister Gerhard Schröder. The Pope also gave Dr. Erhard gold and silver medals commemorating his recent Holy Land pilgrimage. To Mrs. Erhard he gave a rosary. The Chancellor reciprocated by giving the pontiff a silver sacramental vessel studded with precious stones.



CIA Chief Confers With Pope

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI is shown with John A. McCone, head of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, following a private audience in the pontiff's Vatican offices. Mr. McCone, prominent Catholic layman, called on the Pope during a tour of Europe in which he conferred with heads of government. Former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. McCone in 1956 represented former President Eisenhower at Vatican City ceremonies marking the 80th birthday of the late Pope Pius XII.

Don't Flirt With God

Berlin — (NO) — "Every flirtation with God is an unutterable abomination." This quotation from Lenin is used in a sharp attack by the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia of a writer who suggested openly that religion could be useful.

Izvestia acknowledged that the writer himself professed atheism, but went on to denounce his contention that religion could serve a purpose in society. Izvestia is edited by Alexei Arbatov, who once paid a visit on behalf of his father-in-law, Nikita Khrushchev, to the late Pope John XXIII.

Meanwhile, other reports out of Moscow say that the Soviet Communist party's Central Committee has decided to set up an institute for scientific atheism as part of a campaign to reduce religious belief and practice within the Soviet Union. The party will "act after a permanent ideological commission under the chairmanship of the party secretary Leonid Brezhnev recommended strong action to combat religion among the Russian people."

Church Unit To Aid In Job Retraining

Lansing — (RNS) — A year-long pilot program to provide job retraining for some 150 unemployed will be launched by the Michigan Catholic Conference here under a \$50,000 federal grant.

The conference has signed a contract with the Office of Manpower Automation and Training of the U.S. Department of Labor to administer the project.

Bishop Allen J. Babcock of Grand Rapids, the conference's president, explained the program hopes to demonstrate that people who have never received a proper education can be retrained for some useful employment.

"The conference is grateful to the Department of Labor for the opportunity to conduct this experimental project, and we are particularly indebted to the Michigan Employment Security Commission for their assistance," he said. "The commis-

sion will play a vital part in helping us conduct the program."

Bishop Babcock said many of the trainees will have been on welfare for most of their adult lives.

Child's Moral Training Parents' Responsibility

St. Paul — (RNS) — A Catholic educator has criticized and evaluated by its achievement Catholic parents who assume they have relieved themselves of the responsibility for the moral formation of their children when they put them in parochial schools.

"It is up to us as educators to place the yoke of moral training back on the shoulders of the parents and to refuse to accept the responsibility for something which we cannot possibly accomplish," said Father Vincent E. Rush.

Principal of Cathedral High School, Superior, Wis., Father Rush made his comments in an address at winter commencement exercises at the College of St. Thomas here.

"If Catholic education is to survive," he declared, "it must

Children Dispensed

Paris — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has granted a request by a group of French school children who asked to be dispensed from fasting before early morning Communion.

The dispensation is the result of a letter written by a 15-year-old girl and signed by 11 other children. It was addressed directly to the Pope and sent through Archbishop Marcel DuBois of Besancon. It said:

"Very Holy Father, every morning during the week we have Mass and catechism at 7:30 a.m. followed by school at 8:30 a.m. We would like to communicate at Mass, but we have to have breakfast before leaving home. We have bread and coffee. If you want to give us permission to communicate nevertheless, when we feel the need, we would be very grateful. It would do us so much good."

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