

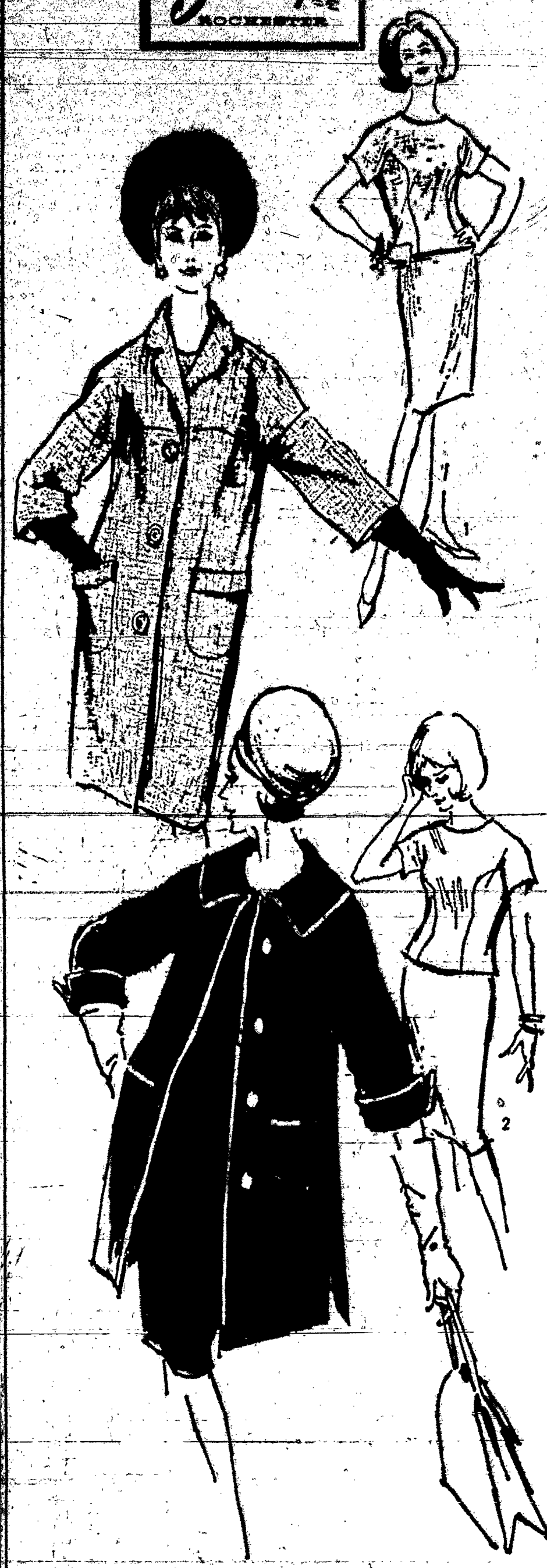
**Devotion**

These services are recommended by the Council as evening devotions, for example, on Sundays and on the weekdays of Advent and Lent. They do not have any set or definite form, but they may be composed of popular devotional songs, recitations, and already are in use in many places.

Bible services, although not part of the office, deepen spiritual understanding and give a liturgical spirit to popular devotions. They suggest one way of taking a long, hard look at existing devotions; this is now made necessary by the Council which requires that "these devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some fashion derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy by its very nature far surpasses any of them."

The bishops of Vatican Council II, who enacted the Constitution by a vote of 2,147 to 4, were determined to impart an ever-increasing vigor to the Christian life of the faithful — whether it is a question of the Divine Office or of popular devotions.

In the office, says the constitution, Christ "continues His priestly work through the agency of His Church, which is ceaselessly engaged in praising the Lord and interceding for the salvation of the whole world."



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**Birth Control Solution?**

St. Louis — The conflict over birth control will be over in five years, says even in two years, an English scientist and expert on population, fertility and marriage predicted here.

Father Arthur McCormack, Mill Hill Father visiting in St. Louis, said in an interview that science is so near to perfecting ways to detect and even to anticipate — fertile periods in woman that birth prevention devices and chemicals will soon be out-of-date.

In fact, he said, "in the next few years contraceptives will become as available as the Model T Ford."

Instead, family regulation will be achieved by two major methods throughout the world — rhythm and "the pill." Both rhythm and the pill, said Father McCormack, will be perfected to the point that they'll revolutionize the whole controversial area of family planning and population control.

Father McCormack said that methods of perfecting the rhythm method "are in the laboratories and have gone even further." Medicine and science are working on several systems but their aim is the same: to devise a simple, easy, cheap and acceptable way to detect the time when a woman is likely to conceive.

THE SCIENTIFIC development would even find ways to anticipate with certainty the time of ovulation in women. Father McCormack said. A couple would then know ahead of time when to expect ovulation to occur.

Among the scientific methods being developed are a simply administered urine test or an even more simple saliva test.

Another system being worked on, said the priest, is electronic. He described this as a minute transmitter capsule that would reveal the status of a woman's ovulation cycle by measuring normal body reactions. The capsule would indicate its findings by some sort of signal. The priest said: "It sounds humorous, but it isn't. It can work. He said the same method is being worked on to indicate other body functions."

Father McCormack is professor of pastoral theology at the general motherhouse of the Mill Hill Fathers in London.

**Dr. Rock's Views Not Compatible**

Boston — (RNS) — Roman Catholic gynecologist Dr. John Rock's moral views on birth control, "as presently expressed" are not in accord with official Catholic teaching, according to The Boston archdiocesan newspaper.

An editorial in the paper recalled that "certain official statements" on Dr. Rock's viewpoint had appeared previously in the archdiocesan publication.

"It has been emphasized by religious authorities," the editorial added, "that Dr. Rock's competence lies in the medical-scientific field, not in the area of moral judgment."

THE EDITOR stated that the physician and research specialist's self-quoted notions on the morality of the so-called abortifacient, or birth control pill, are not compatible with official Catholic teaching in this regard.

Continuing, the editorial stated: "Catholics and others who recognize Dr. Rock's scientific acumen must not draw the conclusion that his professional competence extends into the ethical and moral implications of these findings."

At a recent symposium in New York sponsored by the Planned Parenthood-World Population convention, Dr. Rock called for "forceful action" by

the Catholic Church in support of birth control.

He was quoted as saying: "It is shameful of my Church not to live up to its obligation in this matter. The Catholic leaders must come forward and join the Planned Parenthood movement."

The noted gynecologist's stand was assailed recently by Catholic leaders.

In Cleveland, Msgr. Francis W. Carney of the Diocesan Family Life Bureau charged Dr. Rock created "scandal" when, as a Roman Catholic, he insisted that the contraceptive pill is a moral means of family limitation.

Msgr. George A. Kelly, director of the Family Life Bureau of the New York archdiocese, denounced the physician "as a man who capitalizes on his Catholicism, yet speaks not at all out of a Catholic conscience."

Pope Henry's Premier Valotto, Manila — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has awarded the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Sylvester to Manila's Fringe Minister Giorgio Borg Olivero.

With this clear and simple pattern, the latter parts of the Church's daily prayer will fill their secondary place. Prayer for the dead, for the living, and for the world — but only one of these three to be obligatory for the clergy — and the prayer of Communion before retiring at night. The hour of Prime, a monastic prayer that is a duplication of the morning prayer (Lauds), will be suppressed. (Pope Paul has decreed this arrangement will go into effect Sunday, Feb. 19, even prior to the overall revision of the Breviary.)

While the process of simplifying the office will involve some abbreviation as well, a lessening of prayer within the Church was hardly the Council's purpose. On the contrary, for those who wish to pray who choose to pray the daily office, the problem today is not the total period of time at prayer, but the need to get through so many psalm verses and vocal prayers — not too much prayer, but too many prayers to be said.

If the office is revised well, it will be easier to pray with greater deliberation, more slowly. In fact, more prayerfully. Adaptations of the office in the form of "short breviaries," such as much the Church's prayer as the full Divine Office, will be worked out — especially for communities of Sisters and of priests — but not suited to men and women.

Still better, a single form of community prayer — for example, a new version of Sunday Mass — might be celebrated together by the faithful by the Sisters or Brothers of the parish school, and by the pastor and other priests.

In this chapter of the Constitution on Worship, much is made of the bishop's authority, in the general spirit of decentralization that characterizes the Council. The bishop may now dispense those otherwise obligated to pray the office. He may allow the clergy, on an individual basis, to recite the office in their own language instead of Latin.

But here again, there is an immediate mention of the laity and their needs: any priest, without dispensation or permission, may celebrate the office in the vernacular language with a group of the faithful.

Among the strong exhortations addressed to the Church in the Council's Constitution on Worship is the plea "priests and all others who take part in the Divine Office" should "improve their understanding of the liturgy and of the Bible, especially of the psalms. While it refers directly to the Divine Office described above and how about to be reformed, this

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