

N.Y. Cardinal, Father Ward

Father Leo Ward, in white uniform, a priest of the Rochester Diocese who is a U.S. Navy chaplain at the Marine Corps station at Kaneohe, Hawaii, greeted Cardinal Spellman when the prelate visited there following his Christmas trip to Antarctica. Young Marines served the Cardinal's Mass at the station's chapel.

Birth Control Poll

Wrong Question Asked

Washington — (NC) — A Catholic family life expert said the wording of a birth control poll was such that he was surprised only 49% of Catholics interviewed said they would like to see the Church decide to permit Catholics to use contraceptive devices.

Commenting on results reported in a nationwide poll conducted by Louis Harris and published in many daily newspapers, Monsignor John C. Knott, director of the Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, stated:

"In seeking an answer to any question, much depends on the way the question is phrased. The Harris Survey put the question this way: 'Would you like to see the Catholic Church decide to allow Catholics to use birth control devices (contraceptives) or would you oppose that?'"

"Forty-nine percent of the Catholics interviewed responded in the affirmative. Frankly, it is somewhat of a surprise that only about half answered this way. One would have thought that many more would have liked a change," he concluded.

The Harris Survey, which is compiled in New York, reported answers to the question this way. Total Public: Should allow, 62%; Not allow, 18%. Catholics: Should allow, 33%; Not allow, 49%; Not sure, 19%.

"The Catholic Church's persistent teaching that the use of contraceptives is immoral is in the Scriptural phrase, 'a hard saying.' Msgr. Knott continued. 'It puts a burden on married couples and on priests who must counsel and absolve them. It can be a reason for defection from the Church, for non-participation in the sacramental life of the Church and for much personal wrestling with conscience.'"

The NCWC official said it is only human "to want relief from a burden." He added: "If on a given Friday one were to ask a Catholic who disliked fish as to whether he would like the Church to change its abstinence laws, the answer probably would be yes. This does not mean necessarily that he would pro-

ceed to eat meat on that particular Friday."

"A noticeable thing in the survey is that while 49% of Catholics would like to see a change, about two-thirds of all Catholics are obeying the law of the Church," Msgr. Knott said. "It is also interesting that 45% of the total public do not use contraceptives."

West Irondequoit School Bus Applications Due

School transportation for pupils residing in the West Irondequoit Central School District will be provided by public conveyance during the 1964-65 school year for those in grades kindergarten through eight who live more than two miles and not more than ten from the schools which they legally attend, and for those in grades nine through twelve who live more than three miles and not more than ten from the schools they legally attend, with the distance measured by the nearest available public highways from home to school.

A written request for 1964-65 school transportation must be submitted to the district administration office, 370 Cooper Rd., by the parent or guardian not later than April 1, except where families move into the district after April 1, in which case the requests should be made within thirty days after establishing residence, but in no event later than Aug. 3, 1964.

Requests should be made on the Request for Transportation forms provided by the district and available in Rochester area private and parochial schools, and in the administration office and public schools of the district. On the day a request for transportation is received in the administration office, an acknowledgment of receipt will be mailed to the sender and should be retained until notification of action taken on the request is received. If this acknowledgment is not received, the sender should contact the office not later than noon on April 1, 1964. During the summer of 1964, persons who request 1964-65 school transportation will be advised of action taken on their requests.

It should be noted that although the district may have provided a pupil with a school transportation bus pass valid for the current school year, a new request must be submitted by the parent or guardian if transportation is desired for 1964-65.

Thirteen For Rite

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI will follow the Lenten example of his predecessor, John XXIII, by washing the feet of 13 seminarians on Holy Thursday, March 26, it was announced. The ceremony will take place in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Pope's own cathedral as Bishop of Rome.

This symbolic act of humility, recalling Christ's washing of the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, had previously not been performed since the time of Pope Pius IX.

While all the other Catholic bishops will wash the feet of only 12, the Pope will bathe those of one other in observance of a legend going back to the papacy of St. Gregory the Great in the seventh century. The tradition is that while performing the ceremony, the Pope noticed that a stranger had entered the group. The 13th person was said to have been either an angel or Christ himself.

'Look' Photo Story on Pope

"A Nephew's Portrait of Pope Paul" is the cover story of the Feb. 25 issue of Look magazine. Included in the 12-page article is a special photo story of the Pope's family.

Lourdes Airport For Sick People

Lourdes — (RNS) — An air terminal designed for receiving sick pilgrims is to be built close to the famous Marian shrine here at the end of the year.

It will be identical to one already existing at Dublin, Ireland, at present the world's only air terminal for sick people.

The new terminal will be a two-story structure situated next to the existing Lourdes airport buildings. The ground floor will have a 30-bed ward with special facilities for loading buses and ambulances. There will also be a canteen and offices with more offices for air line officials on the first floor.

A special ambulance service with stretcher bearers and nurses will connect the air terminal with the hospitals of the Lourdes shrine.



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Three Priests Arrested in Sudan

Kampala, Uganda — (NC) — Three more priests—two Italian missionaries and a Sudanese—have been arrested and released on bail in the neighboring Sudan, whose government continues its harassment of the Church.

Sudanese refugees reaching Uganda reported the priests were accused of aiding southern Sudanese rebels who are fighting the northern-dominated government, claiming it follows a policy of racial discrimination, political repression, religious persecution and economic exploitation.

The detention of the three priests followed reports in January that five other priests—three Italian and two Sudanese—had been arrested on charges of anti-government activities.

THE ARRESTS are the latest development in a government campaign against the Church in southern Sudan which has resulted in the closing of at least 350 mission schools, the expulsion from the country of 160 missionaries, including 113 Catholics, and the death of 100.

In 1962 that makes virtually all mission work illegal.

Last November, Bishop Irenaeus Dus, Apostolic Vicar of Wau, declared that there is "a fact persecution" of Christianity in his Moslem-ruled African country.

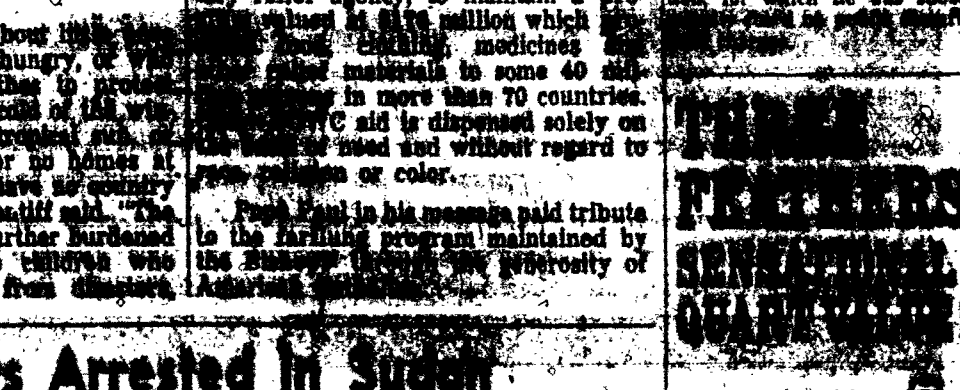
The four million southerners are Negroes, speak African languages and are mainly pagan, but include more than 600,000 Christians, of whom about 900,000 are Catholics. The government, saying it seeks national unity, has tried to impose Islam on the south.

In recent years the Sudanese Catholic schools have raised \$1 million for the fund raising and contributions during the year.

The Pope worried about the sick who go to bed at night hungry, or who have not sufficient clothes to protect them against the bitter cold of the winter or the heat of the summer sun, or who have no parents or no homes at all, or still worse, who have no country to call their own," the Pontiff said. "The Holy Father's heart is further burdened with concern for those children who have recently suffered from drought."

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