

# More Political Involvement for Churches

Council Expert Advises

## Discern Split In Modern World

New York — (NC) — The Catholic Church is being forced to reevaluate its claim of being the unique instrument of God's salvation, a Paulist priest told members of the Catholic Theological Society of America here.

The Church must learn to discern amid the rapid evolution of the world, these remarks were made by Rev. John Strasky, S.P., a Paulist priest, at the 19th annual convention of the society, which was held at the University of St. Mary's College, St. Mary, Md., last night.

Speaking at the 19th annual convention of the society, Father Strasky, S.P., president of the society, declared that the modern Church is a tiny island in a sea of unbelief.

And, he said, if the Church is to be reformed, it must be reformed in a way that is not a mere technical change, but a change in the very nature of the Church itself.

It is this realization, said Father Strasky, that has led to the shift from St. Paul's image of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ to the current notion of it as the "people of God and His Family."

The "imperative theological task" of the Church, he said, is to change the thinking of Christians so that the Church does not appear to be a "perfect society armed with rights and powers" and a "rigid, inflexible institutional form."

Magr. Doherty, delivering the keynote address at the convention, stated that today's theologians should make use of social sciences in the same way that St. Thomas Aquinas made use of Greek philosophy in the Middle Ages.

## Uganda Martyrs Canonization Set Oct. 18

Vatican City — (NC) — The Vatican's Congregation of Rites has approved the canonization of 22 African Negroes who were slain in Uganda in the 19th century for refusing to renounce their faith.

Vatican sources indicated the new saints would be canonized on Mission Sunday, Oct. 18, during the third session of the Vatican council.

It was also expected that some note would be taken in the canonization ceremonies of 12 Anglicans who died during the same persecutions rather than deny Christ.

The 22 martyrs are the first Africans south of the Sahara to be declared saints. They were beatified in 1920.

## Administrators' Meet Planned

Buffalo, N.Y. — (NC) — A workshop for Catholic women's college administrators will be held at Rosary Hill College here Aug. 18 to 21. It will be sponsored by the college at the request of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

If indications current with the Republican and Democratic Presidential nominating seasons are read properly, religious groups are digging deeper than ever into American political action.

As seen in their successful and prolonged effort to push a strong civil rights bill through Congress, the nation's Catholics, Catholics and Jews are still striving on an unprecedented scale to make their voices heard and their influence felt on many pending issues in the political arena that are of religious concern.

Last week in San Francisco, Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the Eisenhower Administration, testified before the Republican Platform Committee as a representative of the National Council of Churches.

While carefully specifying that the Council "cannot claim to be speaking for all of the members" of its 21 Protestant and Orthodox communions, which count a total of some 40 million people, he outlined positions reflecting policies laid down by the Council's representative General Assembly and General Board.

Dr. Flemming, now president of the University of Oregon and first vice-president of the National Council, spoke to issues not only of obvious religious interest, such as the proposed

prayer amendment to return the national motto to "In God We Trust," but also religious groups' concern over civil rights, educational and welfare problems and international affairs.

Such calls for religious participation in the political sphere also were being sounded in Catholic and Jewish quarters.

Ave Maria, national weekly published by the Holy Cross Fathers, while not speaking in specific political terms, made a strong editorial call for the insertion of religious tenets into the search for solutions to pressing national questions.

"We had better be doing some very advanced, far-reaching thinking about social problems," it said, noting that "science, technology and all-around knowledge are progressing at full gallop, while social thought is at a near standstill."

The publication called for "the kind of thought that sees each individual as a special creation of God, as one God calls by name, and considers the person's rights more important than commercial clutches."

And Jewish concern was seen in the official endorsement given by the Central Conference of American Rabbis to individual rabbis who speak out on politics and moral issues. A resolution declared that the rabbi "has the right and obligation to exercise political responsibility as a citizen and as

a moral teacher" and that he should be free to take a public position in political campaigns.

It approved certain, considering the many still-pending legislative issues having moral implications—such as medical aid, employment and poverty—and the bills with direct religious ties—prayer in schools and aid education—that in forthcoming campaigns office-seekers will be questioned to a new extent by religious leaders and groups.

Still, religious forces contend that the church should confine itself to spiritual matters and remain out of the secular realm, continue to press their position. The influential conservative Protestant fortnightly, Christianity Today, in an editorial in the July 17 issue, declared that the church "has a message primarily for the spiritual needs of mankind."

"Once she shifts her emphasis from spiritual to secular matters, her influence wanes; and this is a danger she faces today," the editorial said. "The New Testament we find in Lord and the Apostles living in the midst of social, economic and political evils as great as any in our time; yet we find their ministries primarily directed to the spiritual needs of mankind and are assured 'that only as the heart of man is changed can these evils be eliminated.'"

Meanwhile, sharp criticism of "politics in the pulpit" was being sounded by such prominent individuals as South Carolina Senator J. Strom Thurmond, an outspoken foe of the National Council of Churches.

He recently placed into the Congressional Record an article by William F. Buckley, Jr., editor of the conservative National Review, which contended that "no sound ought to be heard in the church but the healing voice of Christian charity." Those who quit their proper character as a church, he said, do not belong to it.

Political opinions continued to emanate from pulpits and religious editorial platforms, however, sometimes with startling sharpness.

The noted ecumenical weekly, Christian Century, gave lead space in its July 12 issue to an editorial entitled "Goldwater's 'No!' While holding the orthodox line, it would refrain from endorsing or opposing a candidate, the publication 'flatly' opposed the Arizona Senator's 'dogmatic' position and 'ideological' character as not being based on "the considerations of practical politics which have hitherto dominated American elections."

The magazine said it planned to "expose this position to discussion" through publication of the views of a dozen prominent churchmen and professors of Christian ethics.

Also, Don Zirkel, a Catholic editor who calls himself a political conservative, took issue with Sen. Goldwater's stand against federal aid to education. News editor of the Brooklyn Tablet, a diocesan weekly, he presented his arguments in an article in The Lamp, monthly published by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement (Graymoor).

Such public discussion of candidates by religious spokesmen has not been confined to their stand on the issues. Before he removed himself from the Republican Presidential race, New York's Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's marital status stimulated considerable discussion in religious quarters.

Among public expressions on his divorce and remarriage was the statement issued by 15 Baptist ministers in California which called him a "bad example" for the country.

The statement also was to be circulated at the Democratic National Convention, presented to candidates for national office, and made a subject of discussion throughout the country in local churches and voluntary organizations.

Urging free discussion of the goal, the document is critical of the "sincere, but misguided" individuals and groups in the country "believing that even discussion of these matters weakens American security."

"They are convinced that the Communist world is monolithic and unchanging, and that acceptance of these goals would betray American values," it states.

The paper endorses disarmament negotiations, calls for new approaches to dealing with China, urges strengthening the International Court, supports United Nations peace-keeping forces, and asks for an examination of economic consequences of a reduction in military expenditures. It also urges support to underdeveloped areas, opposition to colonialism, and ratification of UN Human Rights conventions and measures to ease tension in Latin America and other critical areas.



## Communion for the Handicapped

Boston — (RNS) — Cardinal Cushing distributes first Holy Communion to physically and mentally handicapped children at Boston's Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Memorial Hospital. Founded by the Kennedy family, the hospital is staffed by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

## Churchmen's Statement Given GOP

San Francisco — (RNS) — A document formulated by nationally prominent religious, civic and labor leaders which suggests steps toward implementation of U.S. foreign policy goals was distributed here to delegates and political leaders at the Republican National Convention.

It urges broad public discussion and government action to effect the goals of freedom, peaceful change, disarmament, peace and the establishment of communities based on cooperation and law. The document was drafted in New York last December at the Voluntary Organizations and a World Without War Conference, attended by some 260 individuals.

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## Poll Shows Shared-Time Favored

Washington — (RNS) — More than 60 per cent of 183 public school superintendents polled in a National Education Association study said that on the basis of their experience with shared-time programs of instruction, they would recommend the practice to other school systems.

Believed to be the first nationwide survey in the field, the NEA study report attempted to reach no conclusion or recommendations as it highlighted the program, advantages and disadvantages of such arrangements.

The NEA study is confined to arrangements in which non-public, usually Roman Catholic, schools send their pupils to public schools for instruction in one or more subjects during a regular school day. All schools involved had enrollments of 300 or more.

THE REPORT is based on information drawn from questionnaires sent to school superintendents who responded to an earlier NEA poll of school systems.

While it did not cover all shared-time arrangements in the country nor even a representative sample of them, the number of replies produced some insights into the workings of a shared-time, observers said.

States with the largest number of shared-time programs reported were Michigan (42), Ohio (36), Pennsylvania (31), Illinois (27), Wisconsin (27), Minnesota (13), Indiana (11), and Missouri (10).

Industrial arts, vocational education and home economics were the subjects most frequently provided by the public schools. Others, in the order of frequency, included instrumental music, physical education, physics, chemistry, driver training, advanced mathematics, foreign languages, general science, and business and clerical subjects.

## Chile Red Calls Clergy Vultures

Santiago — (NC) — The Santiago archdiocese has called a Red attack on the Church in the Chilean Senate "a grave warning of what communism means and of its intentions to persecute the Catholic Church."

But the sharpest protest against the speech of communist Senator Jaime Barros came from the Communist party itself, which said the attack in no way reflected its thinking.

The day after making his attack, Senator Barros issued a retraction and accused himself of not understanding the true communist position on religion.

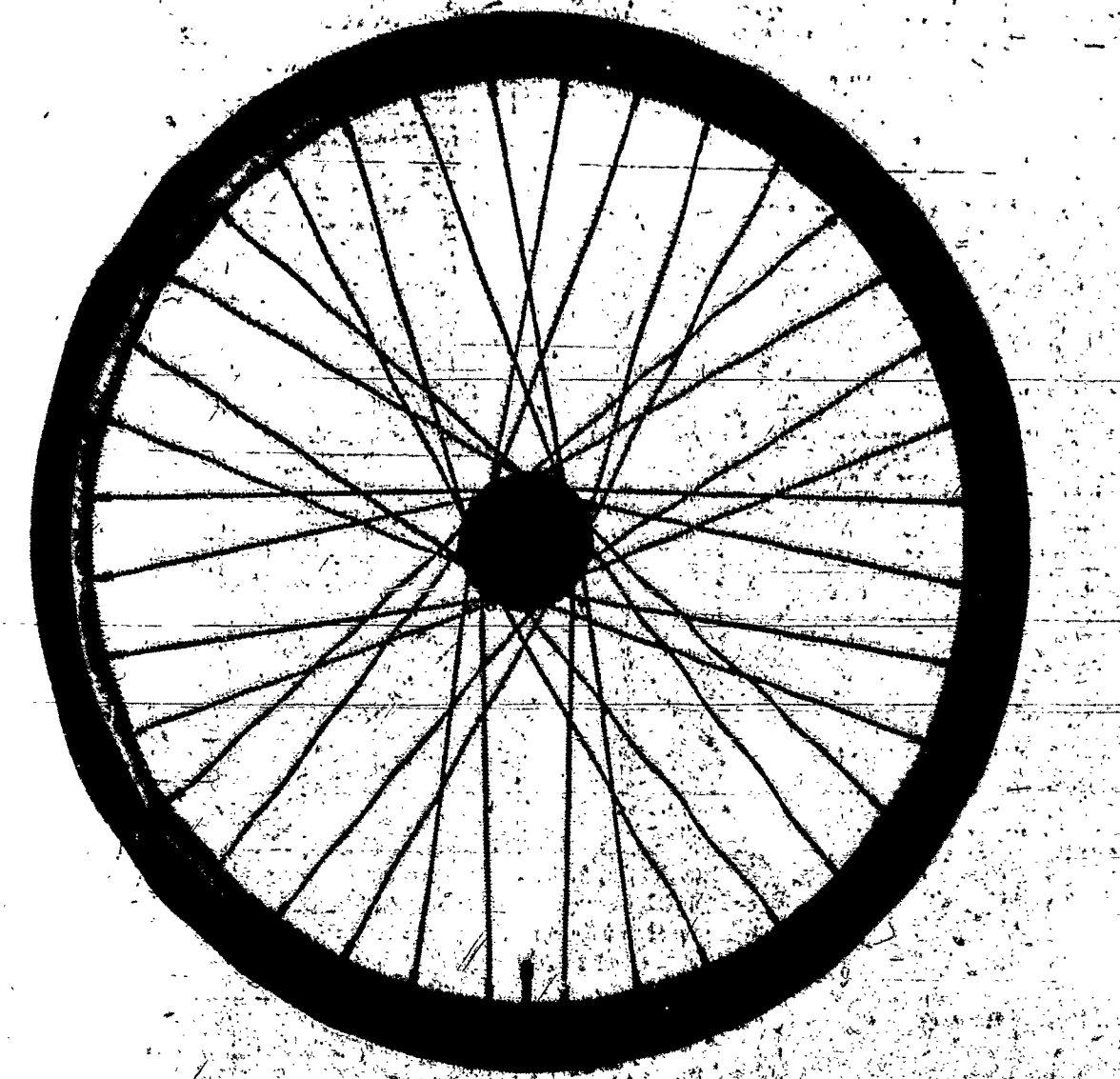
It was the first time in Chilean history that a public retraction had been made in the Senate.

The Red maneuver was seen by observers here as a Communist effort to prevent a Marxist candidate, Senator Salvador Allende, from losing Catholic votes in the Sept. 4 presidential elections. The Communist party is supporting Allende—who also denounced Barros' attack—in his race against the Christian Democratic candidate, Sen. Eduardo Frei, a Catholic.

During the campaign, the Communist party has refrained from attacking the Church and openly sought Catholic votes for Allende. An organization called Catholics With Allende is a

Communications Center

Mexico City — (NC) — A Catholic national center for mass communications media has been established here to deal with matters relating to the press, motion pictures, radio and television. A committee including representatives of the lay apostolate organizations such as Catholic Action, Christian Family Movement and Knights of Columbus, was named to draw up the center's constitution. Fathers Rutilio S. Ramos, Manuel Vasquez Montero and Joaquin Cortina were appointed as advisors to the center.



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