

Catholic, Protestant Prayer Rites

U.S. Bishops Cautioned on 'Excesses'

New York — (RNS) — Efforts to clarify a recent confidential directive to the American Catholic hierarchy warning against Catholic participation in ecumenical services with non-Catholics have so far been unsuccessful.

In Rome, Vatican sources were reported to have had no knowledge of the directive issued by Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, Apostolic Delegate to the United States. Remaining unanswered was the question

whether he acted on his own responsibility or in consultation with authorities of the Roman Curia.

First disclosed by the National Catholic Reporter, weekly published by Catholic laymen in Kansas City, Mo., the directive — as quoted by the paper — said "the Holy See is deeply concerned about some excesses which are taking place in religious services wherein Catholics and non-Catholics participate."

According to a New York Times dispatch from Rome, the directive became known after several U.S. bishops had duplicated their copies and sent the duplicates to priests in their dioceses.

The Register, national Catholic weekly published in Denver, Colo., disclosed in its March 14 issue that it had contacted Church officials, but "they refused either to confirm or deny this report since the directive was confidential."

It said Archbishop Vagnozzi could not be reached, his office in Washington explaining that he would be out until late March.

The Register said that spokesmen for various members of the hierarchy had indicated it was "improper" and "out of place" to comment on a confidential directive issued to the American hierarchy by the Apostolic Delegate.

That directive was reported to have stated that because the "excesses" complained of "give rise to great wonderment, and indeed bewilderment, among the faithful, the Holy See wishes the bishops to understand that, until the Conciliar Commission has established specific and definitive norms regarding 'communio in sacris,' participation in such ceremonies should be avoided."

It added that "undue haste and lack of proper preparation in contacts with separated brethren could jeopardize the attainment of sound ecumenical results which the Council seeks to promote and could, in fact, endanger existing cordial relations with other Christian communities."

Among prelates approached by the Register was Auxiliary Bishop Philip M. Hannan of Washington, who said "it is not proper to give a statement on this matter." A similar response, the paper said, was given by a spokesman of Joseph Cardinal Ritter, Archbishop of St. Louis.

In Pittsburgh, however, where Catholic-Protestant ecumenical relations have been

especially noteworthy, Auxiliary Bishop Vincent M. Leonard told a reporter that the directive would in no way hamper the growing rapprochement between Catholics and Protestants in the United States.

He was quoted as saying that the directive referred only to joint worship services and not to cooperative ventures in other areas.

In its decree on ecumenism promulgated last November, the Second Vatican Council cautioned Catholics that worship in common was "not to be considered as a means to be used indiscriminately for the restoration of Christian unity."

The Council decree said that while "witness to the unity of the Church forbids common worship to Christians," the grace to be had from it "sometimes commends this practice." Therefore, it added, "the course to be adopted, with due regard to all the circumstances of time, place and persons, is to be decided by local episcopal authority, unless otherwise provided for by the bishop's conference according to its statutes, or by the Holy See."

According to the Register correspondent, the Vatican Secretary of State's office disclaimed knowledge of any specific instructions in the matter of the Council decree which might have been sent to the Apostolic Delegate in Washington. He said the office suggested that Archbishop Vagnozzi might be "acting on his own initiative for good reasons which he has not had time to communicate to us."

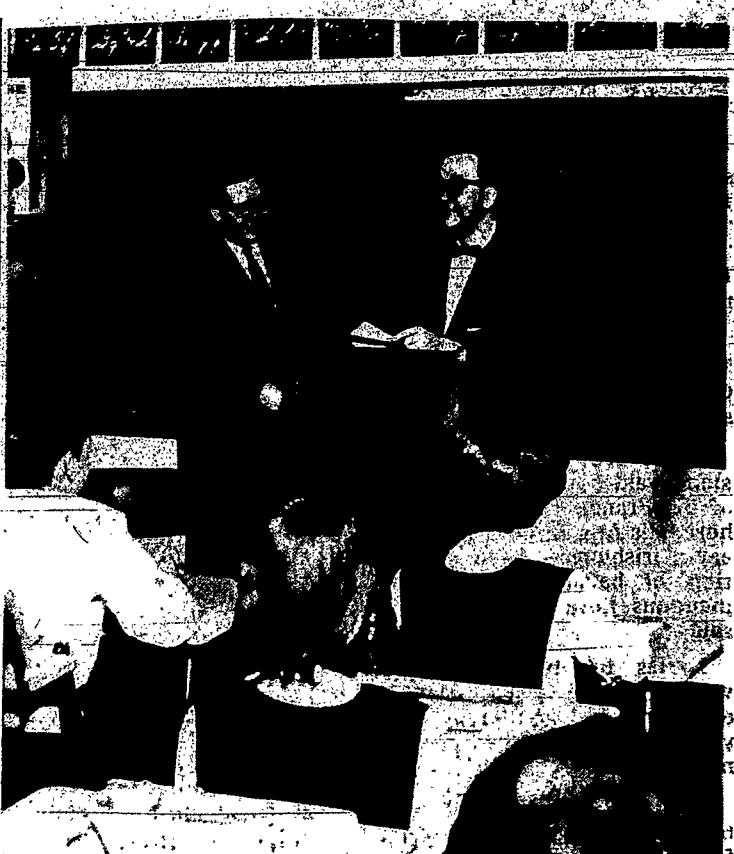
The Secretariat of State is the normal channel of communication between the Holy See and its representatives in foreign countries.

However, according to the New York Times dispatch from Rome, Vatican sources conceded it was possible for any of the other bodies of the Roman Curia to bypass the Secretariat of State and relay orders to Vatican representatives directly on matters within their respective areas of responsibility.

This, they added, would be especially true of the Congregation of the Holy Office, which is responsible for matters of faith and morals. The office is headed by Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani, noted for his strongly conservative views, who is a close friend of Archbishop Vagnozzi.

Archbishop Vagnozzi has served as Apostolic Delegate in Washington since the early part of 1959. A 58-year-old native of Rome, he had formerly been Apostolic Delegate to the Philippine Islands and prior to that had been successively chancellor of the Papal Internuncio in Delhi, India, and an assistant at the Papal Nunciature in Paris.

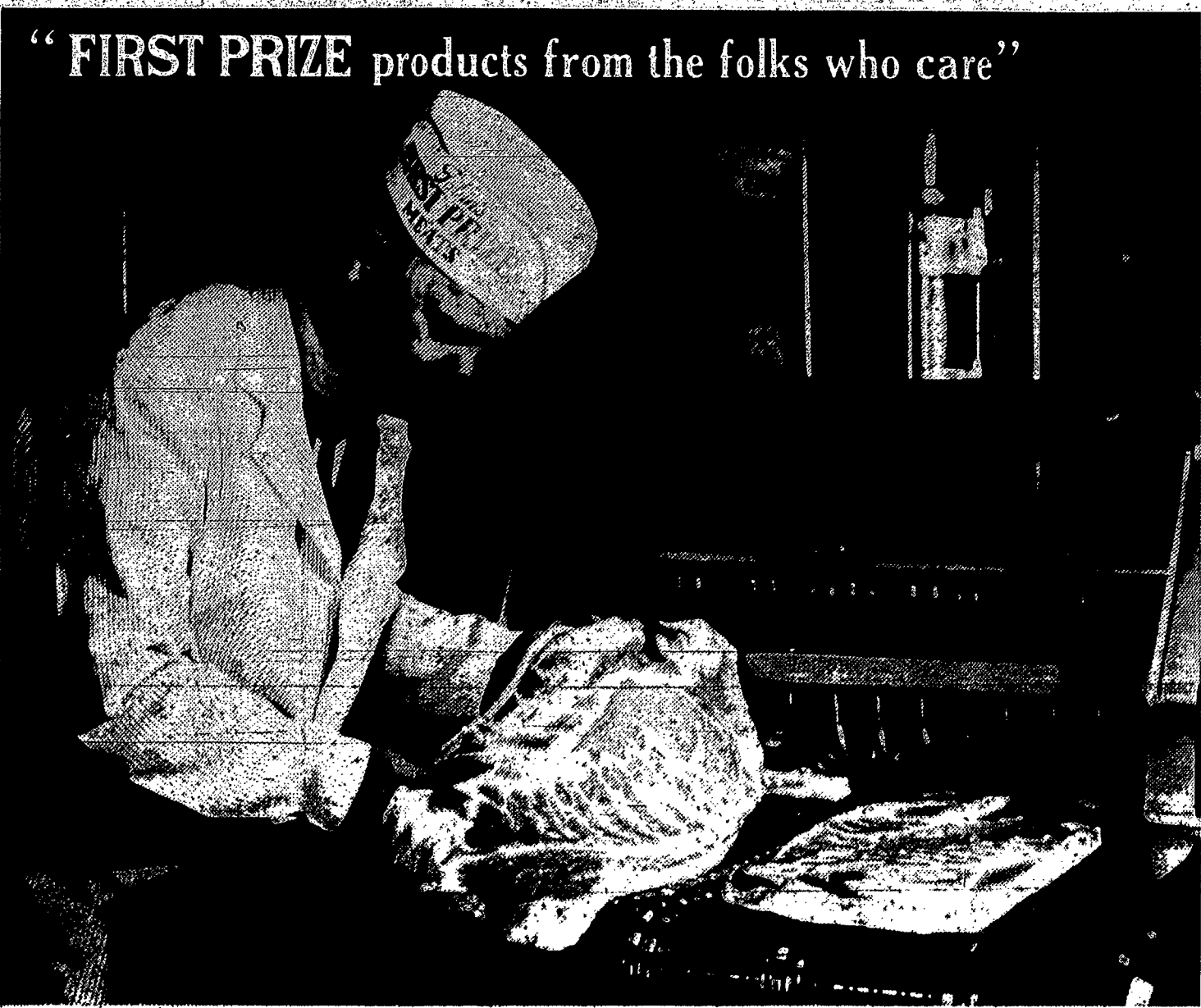
Anti-Smut Effort
New Orleans — (NC) — Louisiana Knights of Columbus have launched a public information campaign to combat what one official termed indifference stemming from lack of knowledge about the growing traffic in obscene literature.



Civics Club Speaker

CITY MANAGER Oliver Taylor, was guest speaker at a meeting of the Civics Club of Holy Family School, Auburn, and explained the city manager form of government to the members. He is shown at the speakers podium while at left is Raymond Riordan, club moderator.

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The Date Book

L.C.B.A. Senate
Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association, Advisory Senate will meet Monday, Mar. 22 at 8 p.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help hall. After the Rosary, Mrs. Georgianna Nientimp, president will conduct the business meeting. Hostess for the evening is Miss Marie Regoy, president of St. Peter and Paul's branch.

Skating Party
The Catholic Widowed Parent Club will hold a roller skating party at Willow Point Park on Friday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. No reservations needed.

Card Party
The Rochester Echo Ladies Auxiliary will hold a card party at 28 Sobieski St. on Saturday, Mar. 20 at 8 p.m. Donation is \$1.00 per person.

Spaghetti Supper
Cardinal Mooney High School Women's Guild will sponsor a spaghetti supper March 27 in the school cafeteria from 5 to 7 p.m. Mrs. Norman Jacobs is co-chairman and Louis Ugino, donation chairman. Tickets may be obtained at the school during lunch hours from Mar. 23 to 26 at the door. Proceeds will go to the Gateway Training Fund and the school fund.

St. Rose Alumnae
The Rochester Alumnae Chapter of the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York, will hold a luncheon at the Rochester Club Saturday, Mar. 20.

Business Women
Rev. Henry A. Atwell, editor of the Courier-Journal, will give an illustrated talk of his Holy Land trip at the Mar. 23 meeting of the Catholic Women's Club Business Women's Group at the clubhouse, 215 Alexander St. Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Thomas More Club
St. Thomas More Club will stage a St. Patrick's dance on Sunday, Mar. 21, 9 to 1, at the Dutch Mill on Dewey Ave. Dancing to Frank Philipponi and his band. Tickets are \$1.50 to members, \$1.75 to guests. Call Chairman Pam Pavone for information at 325-1833.

Day of Recollection
The Rochester Catholic Adult Club will have a Day of Recollection at Our Mother of Sorrows Church on Sunday, Mar. 21, at 3 p.m. Father John Janowski of St. Thomas Church will conduct the exercises. After the services the club will meet at Island Cottage Hotel for dinner. All members and friends of the club are invited to attend this Lenten exercise.

Prayer Evening
The Diocesan Mother's Circle has announced their annual "Evening of Recollection" will be held this year on Tuesday evening, Mar. 30, at St. Monica's Church, 831 Genesee St., Rochester, New York. At 7:45 p.m. the program will be opened with the celebration of Mass. Following this, Rev. Benedict Ehmman, authority on Church Music and Liturgy, will speak.

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BBC Ridicules Catholic Stand
London — (NC) — Three Laborite members of Parliament have demanded apologies from the British Broadcasting Corporation because of a television program that poked fun at the Catholic Church's position on birth control.

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BBC Ridicules Catholic Stand
The comedy sketch being questioned appeared on a show entitled "Not So Much a Program, More a Way of Life," Britain's sequel to "That Was the Week That Was."

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