# Church-State Debate Looms

Baltimore — (NC) — Cardinal Lawrence Shehan predicted here there will be major legal arguments about church-state relations in the coming months. The Archbishop of Baltimore told the Maryland Bar Association he hopes the outcome will not be a setback for church-state cooperation.

He appealed to his audience of lawyers and judges to continue to develop "the practical policy which makes possible cooperation of the government with the forces of religion and which through the years has been characteristic of our federal government."

**The Cardinal said that in the coming months, "we are destined to hear much concerning the relationship between church and state" because of "anticipated attacks" on the new federal aid to elementary and secondary education law.**

"Those opposed to federal assistance to any church-related school are certain to review and to elucidate further the fluctuating American doctrine of separation of church and state. No doubt the attempt will be made to enhance the metiphor of the wall of separation," he said.

He held that the general policy of the federal government has been one of neutrality "as far as all organized religions or churches are concerned," but also a policy of cooperation — "and even, one might say, encouragement, towards all on an equal footing when the good of the country seemed to call for it."

The Cardinal said he saw four reasons for continuing this approach instead of adopting a "strictly legalistic policy of absolute church-state separation."

**THE REASONS** he gave are:

- The government will be the enemy of religion if it excludes all religious influence;
- Public good depends on morality and morality demands a foundation of religious truth;
- The current spirit of ecumenism favors the traditional policy of cooperation and help on a non-preferential basis;
- The government can be aided by religious groups in fighting social problems, such as poverty, crime, urban blight, inferior housing and racial injustice.



## Dialogue With Unitarians

Boston — (RNS) — Cardinal Cushing, addressing the Unitarian Universalist Association here, called for a continuing theological dialogue between Catholicism and Unitarianism which he described as the "link between Christianity and secular humanism."

The Archbishop of Boston told delegates and guests at a dinner in connection with UUA's annual General Assembly "it may be you consider theological discussions closed as between your Church and mine, but I do not."

While observing that secular humanism is "almost the antithesis of Christianity in its final aims," the cardinal stressed:

"Yet both secular humanism and Christianity have a thirst for social justice and the discussion of this fact alone brings us closer to the theological postulates by which social justice can be demanded.

# N.Y. Clinics Show 'Rhythm' Works

New York — (NC) — The crisis for married Catholics today is not only the accent on birth control but a general inadequacy to live a Christian married life in a totally secular society, Catholic family life experts stated here.

Msgr. George A. Kelly, director of the New York archdiocese's Family Life Bureau, and two doctors assayed results of special conferences on the rhythm method of family planning and rhythm clinics conducted in 12 hospitals throughout the archdiocese.

**The priest, who is the author of a number of books, pamphlets, and articles on marriage and the family, in an exclusive interview with the N.C.W.C. News Service, said the Church has done "woefully little" to educate people for Christian family living.**

Dr. Robert J. Walsh, director of the fertility research clinic at St. Vincent's Hospital and Dr. Steven Burgess, director of the rhythm clinic at Misericordia Hospital, were in general agreement with the view.

"We tell our people what they may and what they may not do, but we don't teach them how to do the things they may and ought to do," said Msgr. Kelly.

He made clear that the conferences and clinics were small but hopeful beginnings of needed positive aids to beleaguered Catholic parents.

Initially, five conferences took place March 7 at five churches. Posters advertising the program were printed in English and Spanish. The program consisted of: a talk by a priest on Catholic marriage, its spirituality; a taly by a doctor on the basic medical data for practicing effective periodic continence; and a discussion with the audience. Msgr. Kelly and Dr. Burgess were participants that day.

Churches selected were in neighborhoods of Catholic hospitals where doctors had volunteered to staff rhythm centers. Couples at the conferences could consult one of these clinics afterward.

Clinics were functioning before conferences began; some were operating as early as 1962. Msgr. Kelly said the New York archdiocese, the Chicago archdiocese and the Buffalo diocese pioneered with the rhythm conferences and clinics. (The Family Life Bureau of the Rochester Diocese has conducted a series of similar clinics at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, during the past year.)

Msgr. Kelly said the clinics and conferences are not merely an education in technique.

"If this were so, they would only constitute another type of Planned Parenthood clinic," he said. "The aim is to give couples a Christian theology on marriage and to supply moral and medical norms which they should use to raise families and to make prudent decisions about having children. We don't want rhythm to become known as the Catholic method of birth control even if it becomes perfected.

**"If American Catholics are pressured into having smaller families, this may be permitted but only within the context of Christian values. We've got to train young married couples to live within a context of religion and within a context of secular culture at the same time," Msgr. Kelly continued.**

The monsignor is co-author of "The Catholic Guide to Expectant Motherhood," one of hundreds of titles in the National Catholic Welfare Conference Family Life Bureau's booklist, "Recommended Publications on Marriage and the Family" available on request from the bureau at 1312 Mass. Ave. N.W., in Washington.

A number of Catholic doctors in the New York archdiocese are calling for more rhythm conferences, Msgr. Kelly said the plan is to have a total of 12 in 1965 reaching an estimated audience of 5,000.

Documentary results on the work of the clinics are not available at this time. But Doctors Walsh and Burgess provided some results and offered views on the medical advantages of the rhythm technique of family planning.

At St. Vincent's, since the clinic's founding in the fall of 1962 some 900 cases have been processed. At Misericordia, 213 women have received guidance.

**Dr. Walsh did not cite a percentage of effectiveness based on his caseload at St. Vincent's, but said there is growing medical evidence that rhythm which employs basal body temperature data can be effective in upwards of 90 per cent of the cases. Dr. Burgess estimated rhythm is effective in 75 per cent of the cases. Both stressed they were offering cautious estimates.**

Both agreed the work is a community service and a research project. The work at St. Vincent's is being aided by a grant from Catholic Charities of the Most Trustworthy Heart.

An Illinois industrialist also has provided funds for research in fertility at St. Vincent's.

Both doctors plan to publish medical papers on the results of their work.

While clinics are in an experimental phase patients will not be charged a fee. When the program expands doctors would be assigned to the work and a fee to meet costs is likely.

The rhythm conference will be incorporated into the programing of the Archdiocesan Cana Conferences becoming that part of the over-all program which deals with family planning.

Msgr. Kelly theorized that a national Catholic policy on family planning may evolve from the knowledge and success gained at conferences and clinics. He likened the secular versus the Catholic view on family limitation to the historic confrontation of the Church with the world in forbiding craniotomy — fracturing the head of an infant to effect delivery.

"Then as now," according to Msgr. Kelly, "the world was saying 'That is good which works.' But the Church was saying and still says 'That is good which works and is based on principle.'"

The Church, in standing her ground, he continued, may have pushed medicine into finding the way which today makes the need for craniotomies unnecessary and may lead doctors to find a moral means of family planning.

**"Our medical men really believe rhythm is an effective method of fertility control," Msgr. Kelly said. He agreed with Dr. Walsh's view that it suffers from what were termed "public relations defects."**

Dr. Walsh linked the first defect to doctors "who aren't informed about ovulation or the vagaries of the fertility cycle and don't care to know about it."

These would choose easier mechanical devices for the patients, according to Msgr. Kelly, thereby becoming "victims of gadgetry."

Dr. Walsh said the second defect is a lack of motivation on the part of couples.

"RHYTHM WORKS if the rules are followed. Some couples are like dieters who know success means not eating certain foods, but who break the rules of dieting, nonetheless," he said.

Dr. Burgess expressed the view that rhythm in time may become the preferred method of family limitation even for non-Catholics for whom mechanical devices are not prescribed by religion or their beliefs.

"It could very well be the means of their preserving love," he said. "It preserves the spontaneous nature of marital love more than other means."

The most notable reaction from couples thus far is a new-found security. It is a case of knowledge with professional guidance versus haphazard attempts with the technique based on hearsay information.

Doctors Walsh and Burgess have found through letters from patients, before and after instructions, a more hopeful attitude developing.

"Those anxious to make it work, make it work," Dr. Walsh said. "Others, told of the need for some abstinence are discouraged. Some find a minimum period of abstinence hard to take. Others are surprised to learn a 3-week period isn't necessary and have been abstaining that long until through instruction they learned otherwise."

"What we are trying to do through conferences and clinics," Msgr. Kelly said, "is to uplift the vision of Catholic marriage, to make people see more in family life than the world sees.

"Secular thought makes sexual love the most important goal of marriage. Is it the most? It's important, I'll admit, but in the totality of loving there are many important ways of expressing love," he asserted.

Msgr. Kelly also discussed the popular conceptions concerning what the Second Vatican Council would do about birth control.

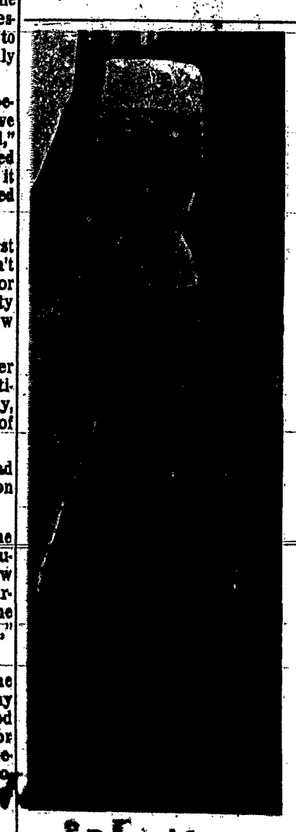
He noted that the confusion in the minds of the faithful is a major pastoral problem for priests. He said it stemmed from reports in the general press, and even from certain segments of the Catholic press.

"The Vatican Council," he said, "won't do anything about birth control. Pope Paul has pre-empted this matter to himself. He is expected to issue a statement about it. The Council may take action as to the ends of marriage."

He admitted there is a danger of false hopes building up in the minds of Catholics.

"The large part of the Catholic married are good and know where to get authentic Catholic advice. When novel ideas are expressed, many a Catholic seeks another opinion or two before acting," he said.

"The vast body of the married won't use contraceptives or pills. Most Catholics are practicing Catholics and live up to the law rather well considering they are human," Msgr. Kelly said.



## Daughter Is Mother

A 79-year-old nun of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in Green Bay is now calling her daughter "Mother." Sister Mary of St. Rose (standing) was elected mother superior. Her real-life mother, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart (seated) has been a member of the order for 15 years—since the death of her husband. Mother Mary of St. Jerome, at age of 74, founded the order's original convent in Green Bay in 1882. Mother Mary of St. Rose, the new superior, entered the order in 1936.

## Mayor Returns To Say Mass

Spearville, Kan. — (NC) — Spearville's former mayor came back to town and carried out a special mission — he offered his first Solemn Mass in St. John's church.

Father Elmer A. Klenke, 48, resigned as mayor in 1959. He enrolled at a seminary and completed his theology and philosophy studies. A few days after he was ordained as a priest of the Dodge City, Kan., diocese by Bishop Marion F. Forst of Dodge City, he returned here andoffered his first Solemn Mass.

## Persecution Protested

Washington — (NC) — A Catholic prelate, speaking at a mass protest meeting attended by about 1,000 persons, called on the Soviet Union to change its policy toward the Jews in its country — "a group, he said, which is in the throes of spiritualized cultural genocide."

Father Edward H. Flannery, editor of the Providence Visitor, said at Howard University that, all denials to the contrary, the USSR is carrying on an anti-Jewish campaign started in Russia under the czars.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