



New Parish Starts Classes In a Barn

If Christianity could begin in a stable, a parish can begin in a barn—that, at least, is the conviction of Father Joseph Lynch, pastor of new Holy Spirit parish in Penfield. His young parishioners have just completed a two weeks summer school catechism program with classes held at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. James Bauman on Five Mile Line

Road. Photos show him quizzing the young scholars after a lesson by Sister Yvonne and saying Mass at the close of the morning sessions. The Mass drew a congregation of neighbors and parents as well as the summer school's pupils. The biblical looking characters in the photo at right enacted the miracle our Saviour worked at Cana

changing water into wine. Sister St. Agnes, not up to a miracle, had "the Lord" use vegetable dye to "change" the water in the jar held by "the chief steward." Sister Hiltrude, the third faculty member, aided the children in saying the prayers and singing the Mass hymns each day. Sunday Masses are held at Mercy High School.



Father Lynch reads Gospel at Mass. Rustic setting reminds congregation of Bethlehem.

The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Journal

76th Year

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1965

Price 15 Cents

Two Thorny Topics Confront Pope Paul

Obedience to church authorities and birth control — two of the thorniest topics ranking in the Catholic Church today have been frequent themes for recent comments by Pope Paul.

The first question is chiefly a problem for priests and nuns *vis-a-vis* their ecclesiastical superiors and the other, obviously, is a problem confronting the consciences of young married couples.

For Catholics brought up to believe that the Church's position against birth control was God's own law (which, as Jesuit Father John L. Thomas stated in his book "Catholic Viewpoint on Marriage," "neither the Pope nor anyone else has the power to change"), Pope Paul's formation of a commission last year to re-study the subject came as a puzzling, if not shocking, action.

He told cardinals in Rome in February that he hoped "shortly to be able to say a few words of ours" on the subject as soon as the commission completed its studies.

The commission — with more than 50 members from 20 na-

tions — reported to him in March. It was hopelessly divided and deadlocked.

He sent them back to work with the comment that "one cannot leave men's consciences exposed to uncertainties" on this subject.

Most Catholics thought it had been settled long ago once and for all — if not by the Bible's Onan episode in the Book of Genesis, then by the Vatican's Holy Office decrees in 1851 and 1852 and if not then, at least by Pope Pius XI in 1930 or Pope Pius XII in 1958.

All of these decisions were based, as Father Thomas and other Catholic theologians ex-

plain, on "a study of the structure and function of the generative system." The moral law, he suggests, is gleaned from textbooks on biology.

In his talk to the commission members, Pope Paul, however, said "the anguish of many souls" requires that more than just biological factors be considered—he mentioned specifically the mutual love of husband and wife, economic, psychological and sociological aspects of the problem.

He concluded his talk by emphasizing that "this question is all too important, the uncertainties of some are too grievous" to delay reaching a satisfactory solution.

About 20 of the commission members again met in Rome in late June and reported what they'd accomplished since March.

A few days later, Pope Paul in a talk to delegates of the International Union of Family Organizations said "the Church looks with pleasure upon many innovations" which characterize family life today. He approved, he said, of a shift in emphasis from "the merits of the family of yesterday" to the "adaptations" made by "new families" today. As examples, he listed "the freer and more conscious choice of a spouse, the greater stress placed upon the development of husband and wife, the more lively interest in the education of children and still many other traits which it is not possible to enumerate."

In ancient times, Isaiah the prophet warned that "the foundations of the earth shall be shaken." Some churchmen feel any reconsideration of the Church's firmly stated position against any form of birth control other than the so-called "rhythm" system will "shake the foundations" of faith for Catholics who have suffered so keenly for so many years as a result of this position.

It is little wonder that Pope Paul, faced with the unenviable duty to come up with what he called an "absolutely clear" answer to the question, told the cardinals in his talk to them in February that he prays God will give him "the light of His wisdom" to guide him in his study.

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Pope Paul stands in the back of his car for summer audiences with throngs of pilgrims. During past month he has frequently told them he is concerned about a growing "spirit of indolence" in the Church.

Rome Authorizes Ministers To Bless Mixed Marriages

Washington — (NC) — U.S. Bishops have been authorized to permit the celebration of Mass at mixed marriages and allow the Non-Catholic partner's minister to bless the newlyweds at their home after the Catholic rite.

The authorization came from the Congregation of the Holy Office in an instruction to the American hierarchy.

Up to the present, mixed marriages involving a Catholic and a baptized Non-Catholic were to be held in Catholic churches with the priest acting as witness, but without celebration of Mass.

The instruction cautions that in the blessing by the minister in the home, where there may be a sermon and recitation of a prayer for happiness by the couple, the marriage promises are not to be recited again.

It was said that the reason for this is that the sacrament of matrimony will already have been validly administered and should not be cast into doubt by repetition of the marriage promises.



I've got good news to tell you about our Head Start program. It's on page seven of today's Courier.

Laymen Preach In Peru Churches

Puno, Peru — (NC) — Laymen replaced priest as preachers at Sunday Masses for the first time in this city.

The laymen's sermons were in preparation for Christian Family Day, being held in connection with the National Eucharistic Congress scheduled in Huanuco Aug. 27 to 30.

Bishop Julio Gonzalez Ruiz of Puno said the sermons showed "the spiritual maturity attained by the local Catholic laity"

Bible Text, Once Scorned, Now OK for Catholics

New York — (RNS) — With publication of a Catholic edition of the Protestant Revised Standard Version of the New Testament, Catholics "in a roundabout way" today can buy and read a version which "above all others, they scorned and condemned for centuries," according to an editorial in Commonweal, national Catholic weekly edited by laymen.

Calling the new edition "a major ecumenical triumph," an editorial in the August 6 issue of the publication pointed out that the introduction to the Catholic version notes that the RSV was developed through revision of the American Standard Version and the King James Version of the Bible.

"In the middle of the nineteenth century," the editorial said, "American Catholics went to court to keep the King James Version from being read to their children in public schools.

"That their great-great-grandchildren will now be free to buy and read an offspring of that version is a measure of the distance both the churches and exegesis have traveled in recent years."

Paying tribute to Protestant scholarship for production of the RSV, the editorial added that "there is even more to the story."

Only since 1943, with the publication of Pope Pius XII's encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu* and statements by the Pontifical Biblical Commission, it said, have Catholic scholars "felt fully free to base their translations on original texts rather than on the Vulgate."

A complete Catholic translation into English from original sources still does not exist, the editorial added, though at least two projects are underway. And even after the new Catholic translations appear, it continued, the RSV "will still be of great value."

"Here for the first time," the editorial said, "is an edition of the Bible from which Protestants and Catholics can gain spiritual nourishment."

New Commissions on Music, Liturgy

Bishop Kearney has expanded the diocesan Liturgy and Music Commission into two separate commissions to step up observance of recent ritual directives from the Vatican.

Monsignor Wilfred T. Craugh, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, will head the new Liturgy Commission. He formerly was chairman of the twofold Liturgy and Music Commission.

Father Benedict Ehmman, pastor of St. Michael's Church, Rochester, will be head of the new Music Commission.

Monsignor George Cocuzzi, chancellor of the Rochester Diocese, in announcing the Bishop's action, explained that the new commissions have parallel goals — greater participation of lay people in the prayers and hymns of the Mass and other church ceremonies.

The Liturgy Commission, he said, will concentrate on working out a diocesan-wide program of worship to develop greater uniformity in rites used in parish churches. The Commission will also arrange instructional Liturgy Days from time

to time for priests, nuns and lay people to explain the Catholic Church's ongoing revision of its ways of worship.

The Music Commission, Monsignor Cocuzzi stated, will re-

view the current flood of musical compositions for the new English texts of the Mass. The Commission's task will be to advise parish organists and choir directors which of the compositions meet standards for good church music.

Members of the new Commissions are:

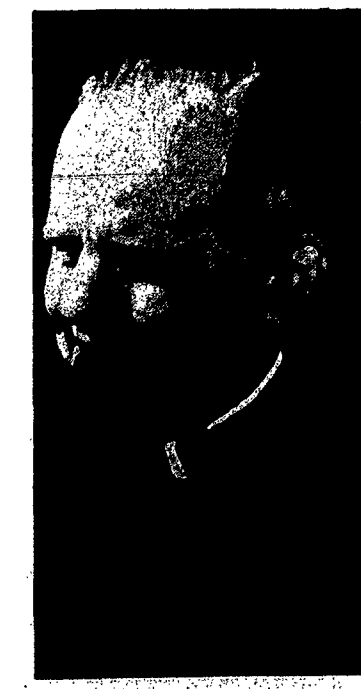
Liturgy Commission — Monsignor Craugh, chairman; Monsignor Cocuzzi, secretary; Fathers Ehmman, Robert McNamara, Peter Sheehan, C.S.B., Gerard McMahon and Thomas Lenhard.

Music Commission — Father Ehmman, chairman; Fathers Robert Smith, Peter Sheehan, Charles J. McCarthy, Sister M. Florian of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister M. Benedict of the Sisters of Mercy, Frank Pilecki, Sacred Heart Cathedral organist and choir director; Donald Neminger, Holy Rosary

Church; Louis J. Ugino, St. John's Church, Greece; John Donoghue, St. Mary's Church; Mrs. Karoly Pados, Assumption Church, Fairport, and Dr. Eugene Selhorst of the Eastman School of Music.



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Sunday Mass On Saturday

Vatican City — (NC) — North African Catholics have been given permission to fulfill their Sunday Mass obligation on Saturday evening.

A decree issued here by the Vatican's Congregation of the Council grants the permission to residents of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. It had been requested by bishops from these countries because their few priests found it difficult to reach all of their scattered churches on Sunday. The permission lasts for five years.

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