

But Salary is Too Low

Layman Converts 354

Fresno, Calif. — (NC) — A lay theologian who converted some 300 persons in four years is giving up the "opportunity of a lifetime" to return to his former newspaper job.

George Randol, one of the most successful and most publicized of the seven initial graduates of the University of San Francisco's Institute of Lay Theology, became the fifth to leave the program, designed to sell the Church through use of salaried, well-trained laymen.

Although he did not survive in the program, Randol believes the use of trained laymen to explain the Church will survive and spread. However, he said, one of the original points of the program's founder, Father

Eugene Zimmers, S.J., has failed the test. This was the theory that converts brought into a parish would increase the income and offset the salary of the lay theologian, whose job is to direct a lay inquiry forum. But although Randol converted 354 people, one of the two parishes where he was working — Our Lady of Victory — could not afford to renew his contract.

Msgr. Thomas McGovern, the pastor, praised Randol's work highly, saying it added to the apostolic spirit of the whole parish. "But there just wasn't enough money to pay him a living wage. And you couldn't ask

him to spend so many hours, day and night, away from his family and not pay him a living wage," he said.

"I could spend the rest of my life here," Randol said. "If I wanted to stay at six or seven thousand dollars a year. But I and others in the program are leaving because of our insistence on being paid a professional salary. That's a problem the Church has to face."

For the program to continue, he thinks it will have to be financed on a diocesan or deanery level to include more parishes in rural and economically depressed areas. But even if the economic problems are solved, there may be other pitfalls, he added.

"We will certainly be resisted if we come into a parish and attempt, without any concern for tact and diplomacy, to suddenly have the congregation sing Father (Clarence) Rivers' hymns at all the Masses and the altar turned around the day after we arrive," he said.

"Mijarc" Meeting

Durham — (NC) — Delegates from German and Dutch-speaking member countries of the International Catholic Rural and Farm Youth Movement (MIJARC) agreed on "stronger than ever" cooperation in international rural youth activities at their three-day meeting here.

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Elderly Priest Climbs to Rescue

London — (RNS) — An elderly priest (top of ladder) is helped by a fireman as he climbs to a church ledge in London to coax to safety a young man threatening to jump 45 feet into the street. Father John Pakenham of London climbed to a 30-foot high ledge and from there spoke quietly for six minutes to the disturbed man who clung to a window guard 15 feet above the priest. The man, in his early 20's, eventually came down safely. Said the priest later: "It was domestic trouble... the man had lost touch with his wife and child. I told him we could talk it over better on the ground."

Nuns Vocations Drop 50 Per Cent in Canada

Ottawa — (RNS) — A 50 per cent drop in the number of new Canadian Catholic nuns during 1960-65 in comparison to the previous five-year gain was reported at the 11th annual assembly of the Canadian Religious Conference here.

Father Fulgence Boisvert, O.F.M., the Conference's secretary, said that in the last five years the number of nuns increased only by 1,600. From 1940 until 1960, he said, the average five-year gain had been at least 3,000.

He based his report on a survey conducted among 183 of the 197 nuns congregations in Canada. The survey, he said, showed that 63,248 Sisters in Canada and in various parts of the world are governed by superiors of Canadian communities.

Of this total, 7,527 are Americans, 2,415 are from other countries, and the remainder

are Canadians. In addition, there are 700 Canadian Sisters of the 14 congregations which did not participate in the survey.

Father Boisvert said that while the survey indicated a decrease in the rate of growth among women religious, he saw no crisis in vocations to the sisterhoods.

The meeting was attended by 230 superiors general and provincials from throughout the country, representing some 55,000 Canadian nuns.

In an address, Archbishop Sergio Pignedoli, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, said that some of the suggestions being made for the Church's renewal and participation in the world dialogue were "daring" and "absurd." However, he said, he was not disturbed over these proposals, but regarded them as a "sign of youthfulness" in the Church.

New Church Construction Up 4 Per Cent

Washington — (RNS) — Church construction for the first six months of 1965 is up four per cent over the comparable period last year, according to figures released by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

With the increase boosting the half-year total to \$467 million in new construction, it appeared that with the usual higher production in the latter half of the year the total again would top the \$1 billion mark, as it has in six out of the last seven years.

Religious-oriented construction, however, was far below the 24 per cent increase in industrial building and the more than 15 per cent increase in the six-month period for public utilities, listed in a private construction category.

"On the contrary," he said, "it is something else that causes me concern. It is that people do not insist enough, at least many do not, on the essential condition, the 'sine qua non' condition of dialogue of the Church with the world. They do not insist on that essential condition which is the holiness of the Church's hierarchy and of its members."

Public construction during the same period was up only 1 per cent during the first half of the year. Half-year totals for new public construction amounted to about \$3.76 billion, or about 18 1/2 times that spent on church construction. Private construction amounted to about \$306 billion, a sum about 63 times greater than the total church tally.

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Top organizational campaign in the discuss plans for of the fund-rai

Thou

Plans for recruit of thousands of volunteers for the parish and the parish get together phases of the week Fund campaign started this week, organizational meeting, Auburn and I

Paul A. McGuire man of the Joint C for the parish d nounced that more volunteers will throughout the Dioc ester to contact e Catholic prospect as giver.

The special gifts workers in each pa gn their solicitation week beginning Su 26, while the parish itation effort wi Sunday, Oct. 31.

The Joint College organized as a not portion to conduci ated fund-raising d vide new facilities Hall, the new Dioc of studies for semin areth College and Fisher College.

The minimum \$ campaign is \$9,000 addition to the pa tion effort, JCF c are being sought attors, business a major gifts, and alumnae committee

GROUNDWORK unteer-parish-orga laid at meetings regional and distric and parish pastor and secretaries. At gathering, Very R Lavery, C.S.B., pre John E. Kelly, Colle Helen Daniel, S.S. of Nazareth Colleg Rev. Joseph L. Hog Becket Hall, discuss of the three organ are to benefit frc drive.

Bishop Kearney l Rochester and Aub meetings, while Au op Lawrence B. Ci principal speaker conference. The d cation, Monsignor dall, also spoke at sessions.

Robert B. Wegm; business leader w; as Joint College F chairman, and M c

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