

'Sign of Humility'

Keep Confession as is

Cincinnati — (NC) — A Passionist priest disagreed sharply here with a Paulist priest's call for "group Confession."

Father Louis Doherty, C.P., mission and retreat preacher stationed at Holy Cross Monastery in Mount Adams, Ohio, disputed arguments advanced recently by Father Arthur LeBlanc, C.S.P., of New York.

Father LeBlanc, addressing the Cincinnati Archdiocesan Liturgical Arts Group, had called private confessions an "ego-centric" act and proposed instead communal participation in the sacrament.

But Father Doherty, commenting on this, insisted that "in the Sacrament of Penance there is a personal encounter between the individual penitent and Christ."

"A penitent approaches Christ in the person of the priest," he

said, "and Christ acts upon the penitent through the ministry of His priest. Thus the sacrament is the point of contact between a penitent and Christ, and this encounter is spiritually healing, sanctifying and strengthening for the penitent."

Father Doherty, supporting his argument with quotations from the work of European theologians Dominican Edward Schillebeeckx and Redemptorist Bernard Haering said the "personal encounter" approach to the sacrament "avoids the tendency toward a purely impersonal, almost mechanical approach."

Describing private Confession as a "sign of humility," he said it involves "a series of humble actions on the part of the penitent."

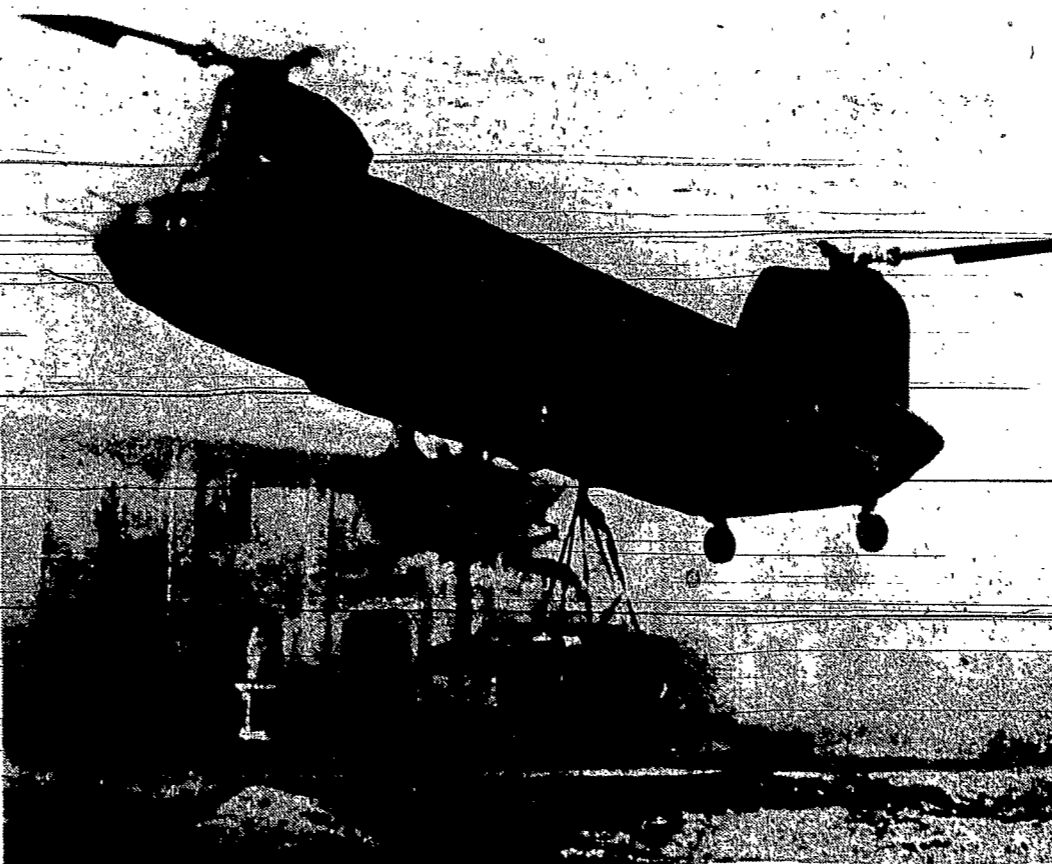
"He kneels in the confessional, tells his sins in a spirit of sor-

row, listens to any counsel given to him, accepts and performs his penance. The fact that a person will freely and sincerely go through all these actions indicates a spirit of humility, a sense of humble submission," he said.

Therefore, Father Doherty said, "to say that auricular Confession is an 'ego-centric act' is inaccurate and misleading — and any conclusions that derive from such a statement would be equally inaccurate and misleading."

He called private Confession "a precious part of our Catholic heritage" and said that "as such it should be retained."

"Instead of trying to change the basic structure of this sacrament," he declared, "we should try to change ourselves and our approach to it."



GI's Rescue Nun's Car in Vietnam

QUI NHON, S. Vietnam — (RNS) — A vehicle belonging to the Sisters of the Cross of Love is returned to the nuns near their church in Qui Nhon, South Vietnam, by a U.S. helicopter. Below, Father Sahn, the Vietnamese pastor, thanks an officer of the 1st Air Cavalry Division which rescued the car. The Sisters had been forced to abandon the vehicle about a year ago when the Vietcong overran the village of Xuan Thuong, ten miles north of Qui Nhon. After the village was recaptured recently, the GI's retrieved the nuns' car and used five helicopters to remove it from the isolated village.

the 20th Century. Starvation, NCWC. These efforts must be implemented of the work anywhere is our concern. I am my brother's keeper.

"For our Catholic people, Catholic Charities most often serves as a source of information and motivating force for 'marches' and 'awareness' through Catholic Relief Services.

Julian Bond 'Imprudent' But Backed in Hassle

Atlanta — (RNS) — The Georgia Bulletin, newspaper of the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, has denounced the Georgia House for its failure to seat Negro Representative-elect Julian Bond, who was unseated at a special meeting.

"Monday was a bleak day for democracy," an editorial said. "Georgia legislators refused to seat Rep-elect Julian Bond of the 136th House District because of his support for a Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee statement which condemned U.S. action in Vietnam and expressed sympathy for draft card burners. Mr. Bond made it clear that he wouldn't destroy his own card, even though he said he admitted those who had the courage to do so."

"We deplore the SNCC statement and we disagree with its rash charges concerning U.S. government conduct in the Vietnam conflict. We think Mr. Bond's support of the SNCC stand to be imprudent, to say the least. But imprudence is not a crime; and in this possible vice he has much company, including many other politicians. Furthermore, we have a similar example of Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon, who has many times condemned the U.S. action in Vietnam. Yet we do not find any of his colleagues in Congress prepared to ask for his censure. Indeed, there is widespread disagreement over Vietnam among the representatives of the citizens."

"What is the issue here? Certainly not Mr. Bond's support of the SNCC statement. Rather it is his right to be seated in the Georgia House, inasmuch as he is the legally elected representative of the people of the 136th House. Refusal to admit him was based almost solely on an emotional reaction to his statement. This sets a dangerous precedent which can lead to the eventual silencing of any dissent from the majority viewpoint."

Clergy to Elect Advisory Unit

Reno — (NC) — Bishop Robert J. Dwyer has ordered a reform in the government of the Reno diocese in keeping with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council.

The bishop said that an eight-member board of diocesan priest-advisors, six of whom will be elected by the clergy of the diocese, will assist him in decisions on clerical changes, formation of new parishes and discussions of all major problems facing the Church in the state.

The vicar general and chancellor of the diocese will be ex-officio members of the board, the bishop told a conference of clergy. The other six, four pastors and two non-pastors, will be elected by the diocesan clergy. He said the first election will be held in the near future.

Poverty War Likely to By-pass Poor

Washington — (RNS) — A priest, in remarks addressed to Catholic Charities bureau across the nation, warned that 1966 might be a year of crisis for the newly-launched government war on poverty and aid to foreign nations. He admonished the agencies to redouble their efforts.

Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, said the crisis facing the anti-poverty campaign — due to the heavy cost of the war in Vietnam and to a possible de-emphasis of involving the poor directly in anti-poverty implementation — might "make it just another set of social welfare programs."

"Catholic Charities will lend its efforts, both locally and nationally, to maintain the involvement of the poor and especially the organization of the poor for the promotion of their own welfare," he said. "Our efforts will be lent to sustain the great vision which launched the war on poverty in the American tradition of helping people to help themselves."

Speaking of world problems, Msgr. Corcoran said, "Worldwide famine, alien as it is to the affluent society, must be our chief concern. It is the only famine that can engulf humanity in

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