



Warning on Current Trends By Papal Envoy

Poynton Beach, Fla.—(RNS)—Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., speaking at the dedication of a major seminary here, warned priests against active participation in "purely partisan politics" and in labor unions.

Politics and unions, he said, fall within certain fields of activity and types of organizations which are the "province of the laity rather than the clergy."

He also cautioned Catholic clergy on their freedom of speech and action, saying that when a priest is ordained he promises "obedience and reverence toward his own Ordinary (bishop) . . . and this promise must govern all his future words and actions."

And he implied that too much academic freedom on Catholic college campuses may result in an "unhealthy license and ultimate chaos."

Although Archbishop Vagnozzi did not mention St. John's University, his remarks were interpreted as supporting the Catholic school in its running controversy with a dissident faction of faculty members. The dispute at the Brooklyn and Jamaica, N.Y., campuses of the university erupted with a strike on Jan. 4, called by the St. John's chapter of the United Federation of College Teachers.

Chairman of the chapter is Father Peter O'Reilly, associate philosophy professor at St. John's, who was one of the original 31 teachers, nearly all laymen, dismissed without a hearing just prior to the strike. Father O'Reilly is not a member of the Vincentian-Fathers who operate St. John's.

Vincentian Fathers also staff the new seminary of St. Vincent de Paul at whose dedication Archbishop Vagnozzi spoke.

Noting that the Vatican Council called for reforms in seminary training, the Apostolic Delegate stressed that this work must "ever remain firmly in the hands of those deputized by the Church to do it, men with profound theoretical and practical knowledge of seminaries and their Divine purpose; experts in their fields."

While suggestions and criticisms of seminaries should be welcomed from sincere sources, he stated, "the direction of our seminaries shall not be subject to the interference of people who do not possess direct knowledge of seminary life or whose experiences with it has been incomplete and unfulfilled."

Turning to the controversial issues of freedom of conscience in the Church, he said, "We must bear in mind that Original Sin and man's inclination to evil affect the conscience as they affect every other part of man's nature, and that, conse-

is necessary to assure and inform a right conscience in man, and to correct it when it is erroneous."

After noting that today there is a great concern about freedom of speech and action for priests, Archbishop Vagnozzi stated:

"Bishops and religious superiors will not interfere with a priest's free expression provided it is not contrary to doctrines defined by the Church or matters taught by the Ordinary Magisterium. Of course justice and charity must always be safeguarded and since a priest teaching is the extension of the teaching mission of the bishop he cannot use the pulpit to speak in contradiction to his bishop."

The prelate said there "are limits to a priest's sphere of action; there are limits of fittingness and suitability which prohibit a priest from assuming responsibilities in fields which are no direct concern of his, unless expressly authorized to do so by his Ordinary."

For example, he said, "no one, be he believer or non-believer, Catholic or non-Catholic, would approve of a priest

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active in purely partisan politics."

While the Church has the duty to promote "social justice and proclaim and protect the rights of down-trodden peoples," he said, "I am sure it would meet with general disapproval were priests to become militant in the inner-workings of labor unions where they might exercise undue influence because of their priestly character."

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Pope Ordains 62 Missioners

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI ordains 62 new priests from 23 missionary countries at an unusual ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica. In a talk during the ceremony, the Pope noted the ordinations' relation to the work of the Second Vatican Council. They were "almost a revelation of its spirit, a confirmation of its hope, the beginning of its application and an indication of its first fruits," he said.

Pope Asks Greater Study of Council

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI said the Catholic faithful should try to deepen their understanding of the meaning of the Second Vatican Council and ask themselves, "What has the Council done to help my faith, my prayer, my search for God, my spiritual life?"

"This question could apply also to the world, the society of our time, so given to forgetfulness of God and neglect of religious observance," the pontiff told thousands of pilgrims and tourists attending his mid-week general audience in St. Peter's Basilica. "We must trust," Pope Paul said, "that it was not only theologians and preachers, pastors of souls and experts in the spiritual life, but also people immersed in the everyday life of the world who were able to glean from the great event of the Council some religious teachings bringing light and comfort."

Sunday Mass On Saturday

Buenos Aires—(RNS)—Because of a shortage of priests, the Vatican has granted a petition by the Argentine hierarchy to authorize attendance at Mass on Saturday evening as meeting the obligation of hearing Mass on Sundays.

A decree granting the dispensation was issued by the Sacred Congregation of Rites with the approval of Pope Paul VI.

However, the congregation stipulated that the liturgical prayers of the Lord's Day must be used at the late Saturday Masses and a sermon preached.

Protestants 'Bogged Down' Catholics Set Unity Pace

Providence—(RNS)—The Roman Catholic Church has seized the ecumenical initiative at a time when the ecumenical movement in Protestantism is bogged down," Dr. Wendel S. Dietrich, associate professor of religious studies at Brown University, said here.

The ecumenical initiative is likely to remain with the Catholic Church for some time to come, he added in a Church Unity Octave address at Grace Episcopal church.

"For many of us that may be a source of distress and confusion," said Dr. Dietrich, "but finally it can only be a cause for rejoicing." Speaking under the sponsorship of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, he discussed "The Vatican Council and the Church's Unity and Witness."

Catholicism will maintain the initiative, he said, because "the

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