

# Council Book 'Dangerous'

Catholics of the Los Angeles archdiocese took another step back from the twentieth century this week.

A book containing texts of the Vatican Council decrees has been banned from archdiocesan high schools.

The book bears the imprimatur (authorization) of Baltimore's Cardinal Lawrence Shehan.

Reason for the Los Angeles ban was inclusion of comments by Protestant and Orthodox scholars as well as comments by Catholics.

The ban was decided on prior to the book's publication. Jesuit Father Walter M. Abbott, associate editor of America, national Catholic weekly, and general editor of the new publication "The Documents of Vatican II" said that Father Donald W. Montrose, M.S., superintendent of high schools and colleges in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, has advised high school principals not to purchase the book because it contains "questionable" material.

Father Abbott, also director of the John LaFarge Institute here, commented that while the California superintendent apparently was "trying to protect 'immature' minds from 'dangerous' ideas," the action was taken "before he even saw the book."

The Jesuit editor said that at the time Father Montrose issued his letter to principals, on Feb. 10, no advance copies or proof pages were in circulation.

A copy of Father Montrose's letter made available to newsmen pointed out the apparent existence of "an organized movement of lay people in the archdiocese criticizing the new textbooks that are being used in religion classes."

The school superintendent wrote that "because we have no way of evaluating," the Non-Catholic portions of the new volume "at the present time, and because of the probably strong reaction of lay people to the idea of placing commentaries by Non-Catholics in the hands of our students, I feel that we should be very cautious in this matter."

"I would advise against placing this book into the hands of our students."

Among the prominent Non-Catholics contributing to the book were Dr. Albert C. Outler of Southern Methodist University; Prof. Jaroslav J. Pelikan, noted Lutheran theologian of Yale Divinity School; Dr. John C. Bennett, president of Union Theological Seminary in New York.

## Pope Greets Patriarch On Birthday

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI sent 80th birthday greetings to a "most beloved brother" Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodoxy.

In the message, written in his own hand, the Pope assured the Patriarch of his "profound and brotherly affection in Our Lord Jesus Christ."

He noted that the Orthodox leader's birthday came on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, one associated with the Virgin Mary, "the most holy Mother of God under whose patronage your long, consecrated life has been carried on in the service of her Divine Son."

The pontiff also recalled with pleasure the events of last Dec. 7 when the Patriarch and the Pope annulled mutual excommunications leveled against their predecessors centuries ago.

He said that the "reconciliation" had "strengthened us," bringing peace and brotherly charity.

## Crucifix Irks Court Witness

Nuremberg — (RNS) — A law suit was postponed indefinitely here when a witness refused to testify so long as a crucifix was prominently displayed in the courtroom.

The witness, an attorney, said one undergoing questioning in a secular court should not have to testify under the symbol of religion. He maintained that the practice of placing crucifixes in Bavarian courtrooms is unconstitutional, holding that the state and its justice agencies are required not only to be tolerant but neutral in religious observance.

The presiding justice postponed the trial until a decision on the witnesses' complaint could be received from a higher court.

## Prelate Praises Strike Leader

San Antonio — (RNS) — Cesar Chavez, leader of the National Farm Workers Association, which has been picketing grape fields in the San Joaquin Valley in California for seven months, this week received warm praise from Roman Catholic Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio.

York; Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, United Presbyterian theologian at Stanford University; Dr. Claud Nelson, consultant on interreligious relations to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and Father Alexander Schmemmann, dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y.

Scheduled for official paperback publication on April 1, with a hardback edition due

two weeks later, a first printing of 335,000 copies was distributed in the last two weeks of March to book dealers. Father Abbott said the entire first printing was promptly sold.

The book was produced in a unique ecumenical-publishing venture by Guild Press, a Western Publishing Co. subsidiary known for Catholic paperbacks; America Press; and Association Press, publication department

of the National Council of the YMCAs in the U.S.

With the Vatican II documents, introductions and commentaries by Catholic bishops and experts and responses by Protestant and Orthodox scholars, the 794-page volume carries an introduction by Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore, and an introductory comment by Bishop Reuben H. Mueller, president of the National Council of Churches and head of the Council of Bishops of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

CARDINAL SHEHAN, who

granted his imprimatur to the book, pointed out in his introduction that "no kind of imprimatur or official Catholic review was either sought or required for the Non-Catholic contributions."

"Since it is obviously the aim of these Non-Catholic essays neither to teach Catholic doctrine nor to attack it polemically," the cardinal wrote, "the customary authentication given to this kind of book should be taken as applying only to the translations and the commentaries by Catholics."

Bishop Mueller hailed the volume as "a significant demonstration of the new spirit of Christian brotherhood and fellowship that is flowering from the Second Vatican Council" and commented:

"Surely, we have entered an era when Christians long separated from each other, will cooperate increasingly in a wide range of Christian ventures under God. As this happens, we will be enriching each other and benefitting the world as a whole."

Other portions of the volume include a preface by Msgr. J. Joseph Gallagher, executive editor of the Catholic Review, Baltimore archdiocesan weekly, who was largely responsible for all but one of the document translations. The religious liberty document was prepared chiefly by Father John Courtney Murray, S.J., who played a main role in formulating the Latin original.

The book also contains the Prayer of the Council Fathers, believed composed for the Second Provincial Council of Seville, Spain, in 619; the Council's opening message; an appendix reviewing main events of Vatican II, and the late Pope John XXIII's prayer to the Holy Spirit for success of the Council.

Los Angeles has been frequently in the news in recent months for turmoil there resulting from open disagreement between progressive and conservative elements on such subjects as civil rights, liturgical reforms, ecumenical activity, freedom of speech and action on the part of the clergy and other socio-religious topics.

# Agency for Aged Proposed

St. Louis — (NC) — A commission on the aging will be proposed for every Catholic diocese by an arm of the National Catholic Conference of Catholic Charities, the conference's secretary said here.

Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran of Washington, D.C., told a charities meeting that the problems of the aging and of juvenile delinquents are two areas in need of immediate concentrated attention.

Speaking to the annual meeting of Catholic Charities of St. Louis, he said Catholic concern for the aging "must go beyond

the provision of homes for the aged."

"We must not neglect those outside of institutions," he said. "Broad diocesan programs are needed which include case-work services, volunteers programs, home care service and social action programs."

"To give emphasis and direction to such needs, the commission on aging of the National Conference of Catholic Charities will soon recommend that there be a commission on aging in each diocese in the country."

Of juvenile delinquency Msgr. Corcoran noted that interest in

the past also has focused on institutions and rehabilitation.

Catholic charities, he said, will have "to take the leadership" in a new approach, adding: "Greater interest in prevention would seem to be indicated. This should be done in cooperation with other groups in the community for a concentrated, intensified approach to this serious problem."

# Celibacy Gives Freedom, Says Spokane Prelate

Spokane — (NC) — Referring to recent articles concerning priestly celibacy and its difficulties, Bishop Bernard J. Topel of Spokane said:

"It is past time to see what God has to say about the subject. Our Lord said that celibacy is not for all, but He did add: 'He that can take it, let him take it.'"

The Spokane prelate said that celibacy, rather than denying freedom, "gives freedom. It makes it possible to be entirely at God's disposition and more devoted to the good of one's neighbor."

He also quoted from St. Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians: "He that is without a wife, is solicitous for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please God. . . . But he that is with a wife is solicitous for the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided."

While emphasizing that celibacy is "most desirable — but not necessary — in the priesthood," the bishop said that Vatican Council II ruled that "Celibacy is held by the Church to be of great value in a special manner for the priestly

life. It is at the same time a sign and a stimulus for pastoral charity and a special source of spiritual fraternity in the world." He said the council made it clear that it "approves and confirms" celibacy for priests.

Could the Church law of celibacy for priests be changed? The Spokane bishop said "Yes." But he said it was his personal conviction that such changes would not be made in the immediate future.



## Music from a Cardinal

London — (RNS) — Cardinal John Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, shows children a hidden talent by entertaining them on a borrowed violin. The impromptu recital took place while the cardinal was visiting a school in St. John's Wood in London. Name of his selection? "Three Blind Mice."

## Rapport Grows Between Public, Catholic Schools

Washington — (RNS) — The director of the Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference told the House Subcommittee on General Education that the "single most important and far-reaching" achievement of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is the rapport developing between public and private school educators.

Msgr. James C. Donohue told the House panel he is encouraged by the "awakened interest" on the part of public school administrators in the problems and welfare of children in non-public schools.

"There is a vigorous new interest in expanding and improving educational opportunities for all children," he said.

The concern shown by public authorities is not without a counter interest displayed by Catholic educators, he said.

"Equally heartening to me is the growing concern on the part of my colleagues in the field of private education to enhance the strength and effectiveness of public education."

He added, "This is vivid evidence indeed that we are working together as partners in the American educational effort."

The subcommittee is studying ways to strengthen and possibly to expand the scope of the landmark education bill, which among other things, makes it possible for needy children attending parochial schools to receive public assistance so long as it does not go directly to the private school.

Msgr. Donohue, accompanied by W. R. Considine, director of the NCWC Legal Department, said the bill could be strengthened by extending the duration of assistance under the act until June 30, 1970.

## Workshop On Sermons

Washington — (RNS) — A critical evaluation of today's preaching from Catholic pulpits in the light of the Second Vatican Council is the aim of a two-week workshop at Catholic University of America here, June 13-24.

Some 70 participants, most of them experienced preachers, will hear lectures from experts in ten religious and secular fields.

Father John Burke, a Dominican priest, will conduct the workshop during which, he said, "preachers will hear frank criticism from fellow preachers on habits of speech, gesture and of thought which interfere with expression of the experience they have of Jesus Christ."

Observing that "generally speaking the level of preaching one hears today is very poor," Father Burke said the workshop seeks to help make the 10-minute or so the priest spends in the Sunday pulpit "more meaningful to the preacher and his listeners."

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