

**Papal Assistant**  
San Francisco (NC)—Archbishop Joseph T. McGuiken of San Francisco has been named by Pope Paul VI in Assistant to the Papal Throne.

**Director for Colombia**  
New York (NC)—Amarado Sonagere has been named director of the Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference program in Colombia.

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# All He Asks Is a Start In the Right Direction

Portland, Me. — Cheverus High School, operated here by the Jesuit Father, has a rule that all students must take part in some sport, and Billy Callahan doesn't want to be different — even though he's blind.

The 15-year-old sophomore is a member of Cheverus High's indoor track team and runs the 40-yard dash in Southwestern Maine Interscholastic Track League meets.

Neither of his coaches,

Bruce Campbell and the Rev. James Dempsey, S.J. expect a lot to score this season, but at last report he was just one-tenth of a second away from this year's goal of 6.5 seconds. (The first time out this season, Billy did 7.7; a recent winning time in the league was 5.2 seconds.)

"He works hard," said Father Dempsey, who is also the school's moderator of athletics. "When you figure that he is a small boy, and had never really developed strength or the know-how of running, he has come a long way in one year."

As a freshman, Billy — who was born blind of normal parents — approached Father Dempsey and asked if he could take part in some form of athletics. Participation in normal activities had been a matter of course for him during eight years at Portland's Cathedral School, under a program that was instituted for several blind youngsters by Sister Miguel, a Sister of Charity.

During his freshman year, Billy was taught how to run, but was not allowed to enter competition, ever against class. The two coaches devised a method, consisting of a guide rope and hand ring, that made it possible for Billy to compete in the dash without wavering out of his lane. Now he's even doing without that.

"After long practice sessions, we have eliminated the rope and he runs as any other runner," Father Dempsey said. "In the track meets we have one of the boys set him up on the starting blocks and run beside him for the first twenty yards. When he gets to the half-way mark, I call to him from the finish line and he runs for my voice."

Billy's coaches are so satisfied with his progress that they plan to train him for the 100-yard dash when the outdoor track season begins this Spring. "Outdoors we will really try to strengthen Billy's legs and smooth out his running," Father Dempsey commented.

"We will give him a goal of 13.0 seconds for the 100 yards, and we know he will do it," Father Dempsey added, noting that Coach Campbell is also considering Billy for the shot put.

Both coaches also stress that the boy's dash-times to date have been about two-tenths of a second slower than they might be if he used the standard four-point sprinter's stance. Instead, he has been starting from a crouch, after a teammate pointed him in the right direction and sets Billy's feet on

the starting block. By next winter the coaches hope to have him using the normal stance and by his senior year they expect him to be scoring points for Cheverus.

Until now, the only thing Billy has won is publicity, chiefly as the result of a big front-page story in his home town's "Portland Evening Express" several weeks ago.

"Bill has received letters from people all over the country congratulating him for his efforts," Father Dempsey said. "It has not gone to his head. The only reason he likes the publicity is that he believes it will help others who are handicapped like himself — both towards being accepted as normal persons by others and in giving other blind youngsters the courage to do things that they might basically fear trying."

For openers, two of Billy's hobbies are water skiing on Maine lakes and target shooting, which he practices in Portland's National Guard Army under the guidance of Father Robert Lee, a friend and parish priest.

At Cheverus, he's among the top ten in his class, scholastically, and is the science writer for his school paper, "The Stag." And he was a basketball cheerleader last season.

"He is a great youngster," commented his principal, the Rev. Joseph Duffy, S.J. "He has never let blindness stop him from doing anything."

Billy has twice campaigned for the vice-presidency of his class, and as if to prove that his classmates have fully accepted him as a normal student, they have both times elected someone else.

(Catholic Press Features)



In practice sessions and early track meets this year, Cheverus High School's Billy Callahan, who is blind, used a guide-ring and rope in the 40-yard dash. Mike Fox, team captain, sets Billy's feet on the starting block. (Photo Courtesy of "Portland Evening Express")

## Both Public, Parochial Schools Benefit

### U.S. Funds for Libraries

By JOHN J. DALY, JR.

Washington — (NC) — Without fanfare, the U.S. Office of Education has approved plans in 27 states (including New York) to give pupils in both public and private schools books bought by the federal government.

The emphasis in the program is on library resources and the books, charts, maps and other materials already are to be seen in some school libraries, an office spokesman said.

This disclosure means that the federal government and the

institute is a private agency affiliated with the University of Oklahoma.

The law stipulates that when the books are intended for use by parochial pupils, they are to be given on loan only, the title is to remain in the name of the government, and the volumes are to be those approved for public school use.

In addition, the law contains a "bypass provision." This means that when a state is legally unable to act as a channel for federal aid to parochial pupils, the U.S. office can step in and make arrangements for distribution of the books.

These cautions were designed by Congress last year to avoid entangling the program in Church-state issues.

The U.S. office spokesman said the safeguards have proven their worth. Only one state, Oklahoma, has refused to take part. Because of its stand, arrangements have been made by the U.S. office to have the Norman (Okla.) Research Institute distribute books to pupils in church-related schools. The

Applications are in from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. With the exception of Nebraska, where negotiations are still under way relative to parochial pupils, all state plans should be approved by the end of the month, the spokesman said.

The value of the materials to be loaned parochial and other private pupils is measured in the tens of thousands in each state. In Illinois, the total value is estimated at \$1,000,000, highest in the nation. In Oklahoma, about \$50,000 in loaned materials is involved this year.

Under the law, a variety of patterns are possible in the mechanics of getting the books from the state to pupils in non-public schools.

The most common plan, according to the U.S. office, is to have a public school district include the needs of children in parochial schools within its boundaries in its application to the state education agency.

## Easier Laws Asked To Aid Cuba Refugees

Washington — (NC) — Changes in the U.S. Cuban refugee program to correct inequities which have arisen under its application were urged by a representative of the National Catholic Welfare Conference before the Senate subcommittee on refugees and escapees.

Specifically, John E. McCarthy, director of the NCWC Department of Immigration, recommended:

- Extension to all refugee Cubans settled in the Miami, Fla., area, "some initial and limited financial grant such as is now provided to Cubans who resettle outside of Miami."

- Help for Cuban refugees in temporary asylum outside Cuba who are unable to obtain visas to join their relatives in the U.S.

- Alleviation of the hardship of separation suffered by refugee Cuban children in institutions and foster homes in this country whose parents are in exile abroad.

- The granting of "lawful permanent residence," and n time citizenship, to the Cuban refugees, who enjoy only what is known as "indefinite parole."

"The indefinite and limbo-like status of the majority of Cubans in the United States certainly needs correction," McCarthy told the committee. "The majority of these people were admitted under a temporary status known as 'indefinite parole.' They should now be made permanent residents of our nation."

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**Postconcliar**  
Washington — (NC) — Scientists and philosophers will lead a study of postconcliar philosophy teaching during a summer workshop here at the Catholic University of America June 13 to 24.

**Closed Circuit**  
Boston — (NC) — The archdiocese of Boston has sold its television station, WYES-TV, Channel 38, and plans to set up its own closed-circuit TV system.

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