



Cardinal Spellman of New York good-naturedly accepts last minute adjustment to his microphone for filming of a scene in a movie based on his 50 years as a priest. Assisting the cardinal is Msgr. Thomas J. McGovern, archdiocesan director of radio, television and communications. Called "A Portrait of a Priest," the film was made by the motion picture industry to honor Cardinal Spellman on the golden jubilee of his ordination, May 14. On that day the picture will be premiered at a dinner in New York marking the cardinal's anniversary. It also will be shown as an opening broadcast of the archdiocese's educational TV network on May 17.

N.Y. Cardinal's 50th Anniversary

New York—(NC)—Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday, May 14. The occasion will be marked by a solemn pontifical Mass at St. Patrick's cathedral, followed by a banquet at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Hundreds will pay tribute to the churchman who at ordination was content to spend his life as a parish priest, but who became an international figure and one of the outstanding religious leaders in the United States.

(Bishop Kearney will attend the Cardinal's jubilee to represent the Rochester Diocese.)

The 77-year-old prelate will be shown a biographical documentary film of his life, a gift from member firms of the Motion Picture Association of America.

On the eve of the celebration, May 13, ABC-TV will broadcast a one-hour special in color, "Cardinal Spellman the Man," showing the prelate surrounded by relatives and friends.

Francis Spellman was born in Whitman, Mass., May 4, 1889. Graduating from Fordham University in 1911, he attended the North American College in Rome, and was ordained at the Church of St. Apollinaris there on May 14, 1916.

The next nine years were spent in Boston. In 1925 the future prelate was called back to Rome to serve with the Vatican Secretariat of State. He was the first American to serve in this capacity.

'Pill' Debate Clouds Ethics Nuns Visit Families

Boston — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic physician, who was one of the foremost exponents for revision of the Massachusetts anti-birth control law, said here that it is "unfortunate" that public attention has been concentrated on "the pill" instead of "more critical" questions on the Church's formulation of directives on fundamental ethical principles.

Dr. Joseph L. Dorsey of Peter Bent Brigham Hospital here spoke at the 30th annual Congress of the League of Catholic Women.

The doctor has been credited with having given new impetus to efforts for amendment of the Massachusetts law in an article written for the New England Journal of Medicine in 1964.

(The Journal article carried a foreword by Msgr. Francis J. Lally, editor of The Pilot, Boston archdiocesan weekly, describing the doctor's writing as "a balanced and thoughtful review of a topic which has a history of complexity and bitterness.")

(Dr. Dorsey reported in the article that Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston had stated: "In no way do I feel it my duty to oppose amendments to the law.")

In his address before the League Congress, Dr. Dorsey granted that there are "historical reasons" for the pill's place of prominence in the contemporary discussions.

"It came," he said, "at a time when expansion of world population, developments in theology, philosophy and psychology and the questioning Catholic lay people created a situation eager to find a morally acceptable means of family

limitation that would be more reliable and less difficult than rhythm."

He said some "more critical questions" were overshadowed when the public limelight focused on whether the pill (because of certain similarities to what occurs physiologically) could be considered "a natural or physiologic method of birth control" such as rhythm.

HE CITED three such "critical" questions:

• "To what extent is interference in the usual biological connection between marital relations and procreation subject to human intervention?"

• "Is the present formulation of directives by the Church consistent with protecting the fundamental values of procreation, innocent life, human dignity of both spouses and human love which have been at the heart of the teaching on conjugal love?"

• "Is it possible that the fundamental ethical principles could remain unchanged but the concrete rules derived from them develop — because of developments in theology, demography, and in our understanding of the role of sex in marriage — develop to the point that practices previously condemned could later be approved?"

Dr. Dorsey said that "it seems unlikely" that the papal commission on birth control would change "a rule built up over the centuries" in the space of a few years.

He said it is "undeniable," however, that there are "well respected and sincere theologians sympathetic to the possibility of a development which would preserve the doctrine's

connections with the rich tradition on conjugal morality fostered by the Church, but would broaden the scope of acceptable human intervention in the process of reproduction."

Dr. Dorsey emphasized that the responsibility for "precise answers" to the questions raised belongs to the theologians.

He added that his own view coincided with that of Msgr. George W. Casey, pastor of St. Bridgid's church, Lexington, Mass., who stated:

"I pray that some way that may be in complete accord with a true conscience, yet not the stark way of total denial of the normal demands and delights of marital love, may be found for those caught between the desire to do God's will and the desire to serve those closest to them on earth."

The physician's speech included a wide-ranging history of the development and use of contraceptives from ancient times to the modern day.

He noted that "the principle area of concern, one widely discussed in the popular press," deals with the side effects of the pill.

From a medical viewpoint, he said, the majority opinion "appears to be that continued use of the contraceptive pill in healthy women is justified" and that it may at times be justified even in the presence of some unhealthy conditions.

"That they have to date been accepted by a large part of the population," the speaker said, "is demonstrated by the FDA's estimates that there were 2.2 million women on pills in 1963, and 5.0 million in 1965 in the United States."

He cautioned the Catholic women, however, that when medical men are faced with incomplete data "as in the case of side effects of the pill," they are forced to make "a prudent decision regarding the use of the drug involved, considering all the circumstances of the patient and the known data about the drug."

Nuns Visit Families

Pasadena — (NC) — Some Sisters of St. Mary have been "breaking the ice here" by spending evening hours getting acquainted with parish families.

"Once people realize we are not asking for money or selling anything, but are just on a friendly visit, everything goes along just fine," Sister M. Dolores related.

The visits began when Father Patrick Flores, pastor of Guardian Angel parish here, invited Sister Dolores, a first grade teacher at Resurrection School, Houston, to work with his parishioners.

His plan was very simple. She could do anything she wanted that would help the parish. The rest was up to her. Sister Dolores said she and a colleague thought for awhile and then decided to go out and meet the people.

Study Course On Council

Youngstown, Ohio — (NC) — Bishop James W. Malone, apostolic administrator of the Youngstown diocese, said all of the diocese's 115 parishes will offer courses on the Second Vatican Council to some 10,000 adults, beginning early in September.

Bishop Malone made the announcement during the diocese's first Lay Congress, attended by 1,300 delegates from every parish and major diocesan organization.

The prelate placed on the delegates and their pastors what he described as a "litte of persons" — to sign up a minimum of 10 per cent of the adult Catholics of each parish for the program which will "form and inform" them in their role as laymen, in the light of council teachings.

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Kennedy Fund Aids Retardation Study

Chicago — (NC) — Mrs. R. Sargent Shriver, executive vice president of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, announced the award of a \$180,000 grant to the National Catholic Educational Association for Catholic religious and lay teachers in the field of mental retardation.

She said the three-year grant would provide 100 scholarships a year to permit Catholic teachers to attend summer schools and institutes for the study of mental retardation.

Speaking to the 63rd annual NFEA convention here, Mrs. Shriver said: "There is an urgent need for more teachers of the mentally retarded in the Catholic schools."

The grant will be administered by the NCEA special education department, under direction of Mrs. Elmer H. Behrman, NCEA associate secretary for the special education department and assistant superintendent of schools in charge of special education for the St. Louis archdiocese.

The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation was established in 1946 by former Ambassador to England Joseph P. Kennedy in memory of his son, Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., who was killed in World War II while flying an experimental mission against a German V-2 rocket base. Since that time the foundation has distributed more than \$40 million.

Leeds Diocese (RNS)—Pope Paul VI has named Coadjutor Bishop W. Gordon Wheeler of Middlesbrough to be the Bishop of Leeds, England.



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