



### Sixty Brides, One Wedding

Lisbon—(RNS)—Sixty brides with their grooms march in procession from Lisbon Cathedral after a mass marriage ceremony on the feastday of St. Anthony of Padua, patron saint of Portugal. The saint's feastday is a memorable event in Lisbon, where he was born in 1195, and throughout Portugal. This year the observance had a special spiritual significance with the public veneration of the saint's relics in Lisbon Cathedral. For the first time since St. Anthony died in Italy in 1231, the relics were brought to Lisbon from Padua where they are enshrined.

### N.Y. Cardinal

## 'Churchman of the Year'

Washington—(RNS)—In a solid show of ecumenical camaraderie more than 700 persons watched as Cardinal Spellman of New York was honored by Religious Heritage of America as Churchman of the Year. It was the first time since the organization was formed in 1951 that a Catholic clergyman received the honor.

The Heritage organization also presented awards to Dr. Walter H. Judd, former Representative from Minnesota (1943-1962) who had been a medical missionary in China, as Lay Churchman of the Year, and to Maria Anderson, world-renowned Negro contralto, as Lay Churchwoman of the Year.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, who had won the Churchman of the Year award in 1964, praised New York's Cardinal Spellman for his "parental wisdom and boundless energy" which have not only served the Catholic Church well, but which have been "at the service of his country and to men of goodwill in every land and faith."

Terming the "Prince of the Church" as a "friend and confidant of the great and the lowly,"

Dr. Peale said Cardinal Spellman is regarded "with affection and gratitude" by American servicemen throughout the world.

In tribute to American armed service chaplains, Cardinal Spellman dedicated his award to them. He is Catholic military vicar of the armed forces of the U.S. Each year the 76-year-old prelate visits servicemen overseas during the Christmas season.

Dr. Peale also noted the efforts of the cardinal in bolstering the ranks of American Catholicism. Dr. Peale reminded

guests that when Cardinal Spellman came into prominence in the Church, there were fewer than 30 million Catholics in America. Now there are nearly 50 million.

"With that kind of organizing ability," Dr. Peale said, "he can come over and run my church anytime."

Dr. Peale reminded the audience that a decade or more ago such a meeting would have been out of the question, but the impact of the ecumenical movement had changed Americans' attitudes toward those of other faiths.

## Spanish Laity, Bishops Nearing Head-on Clash

Madrid—(RNS)—In an action here which observers described as "a bolt out of the blue," the Permanent Commission of the Spanish Episcopal Conference ordered all meetings of Spanish Catholic Action on the national level to be canceled until further notice.

Fears were voiced here that what appeared to be head-on clash between the hierarchy and the best organized, most vocal and cultivated section of Spanish public opinion may lead to a state of open friction between a conservative-minded episcopacy and Vatican Council-minded laymen who form the active backbone of Catholic Action in this country.

In issuing the order, the bishops' commission voiced disapproval of conclusions reached at the recent national convention of Catholic Action laity leaders held in Madrid.

These conclusions—reflecting the thinking of liberal-minded Spanish Catholics—were not made public and the Episcopal Commission also kept silent as to their content, merely saying they had a "clearly temporal (secular) imprint."

According to private sources close to the Church, the Catholic Action leaders called, among other things, for the elimination of political considerations on the part of the Franco regime in exercising its privilege of recommending candidates for vacant bishoprics, for an end to political activity by key members of the hierarchy, and for an open dialogue among all Catholics in Spain.

## Venice Prelate Warns Of Dialogue's Dangers

Rome—(NC)—At the first plenary session of the Roman meeting of the Catholic bishops of Italy, Giovanni Cardinal Urbani of Venice, warned against the dangers involved in dialogue with secularist, communist and atheistic groups intent on serving their own goals.

The cardinal began by painting a rather dismal picture of the "detachment from Christian life" to be found in Italy today. He said this condition is caused not so much by "a spiritual crisis" as by "the influence of material goods."

Among the elements contributing to the present condition Cardinal Urbani cited the enor-

mous growth of cities, the emptying of rural areas, the power of radio and television to penetrate even the most remote parts of the nation, and the influence of the press and other social means of communication which circulate "ideas and concepts of life which are different from and at times opposed to our tradition."

Cardinal Urbani noted that there is today an "arbitrary interpretation of a free and democratic society with the result that conflicting mentalities mistake license for liberty, privilege for right, the might of numbers for democracy, legalized and arrogant revolution for legitimate and dutiful evolution."



### Marine Tutors Vietnamese Protege

Da Nang, Vietnam—(RNS)—Lance Cpl. William H. Noble III, of San Diego, Calif., assists 10-year-old Le Man with her schoolwork. Before completing his tour of duty in the war zone, the Marine befriended the Vietnamese child and paid her tuition at the village school of Tu Loan for the next seven years (\$105). He also bought her a full set of school supplies and a bicycle to carry her to classes, which she had never before been able to attend.

## Parochial Schools Pace Integration

Brooklyn—(RNS)—A New York State Senator's charge that in some areas parochial schools were used "as a dodge" to avoid integrated education was condemned here by a priest-educator of the Brooklyn diocese.

The charge lodged by Sen. Jerome L. Wilson of Manhattan was assailed as "pernicious, unfounded, scurrilous" by Msgr. Eugene Molloy, superintendent of diocesan schools for the diocese.

In Albany, during the course of debate on the "textbook aid" bill which would benefit public, private and parochial school students of the 7th through 12th grades, Sen. Wilson was quoted as saying:

1. That parochial schools were being used "as a dodge" to evade integration.  
2. That "in south Harlem we have not been able to integrate the public schools because the white children go to parochial schools."

The textbook bill—one re-implementing local school districts for \$25 per child in the first year of the program and \$10 per year in the following year—won overwhelming passage in both houses of the New York Legislature. The bill is now before Governor Rockefeller for action.

### Only Way Left

San Francisco—(NC)—The art of communications as practiced by the Catholic Church in the United States has nowhere to go but "up," the directors of the Bureau of Information, National Catholic Welfare Conference, told the annual meeting of diocesan information directors during the Catholic Communications Seminar here.

"I believe we have failed to create a true image of the real Church today—the pilgrim Church, the servant Church, the suffering Church," Msgr. Vincent A. Yermans told his fellow information directors.

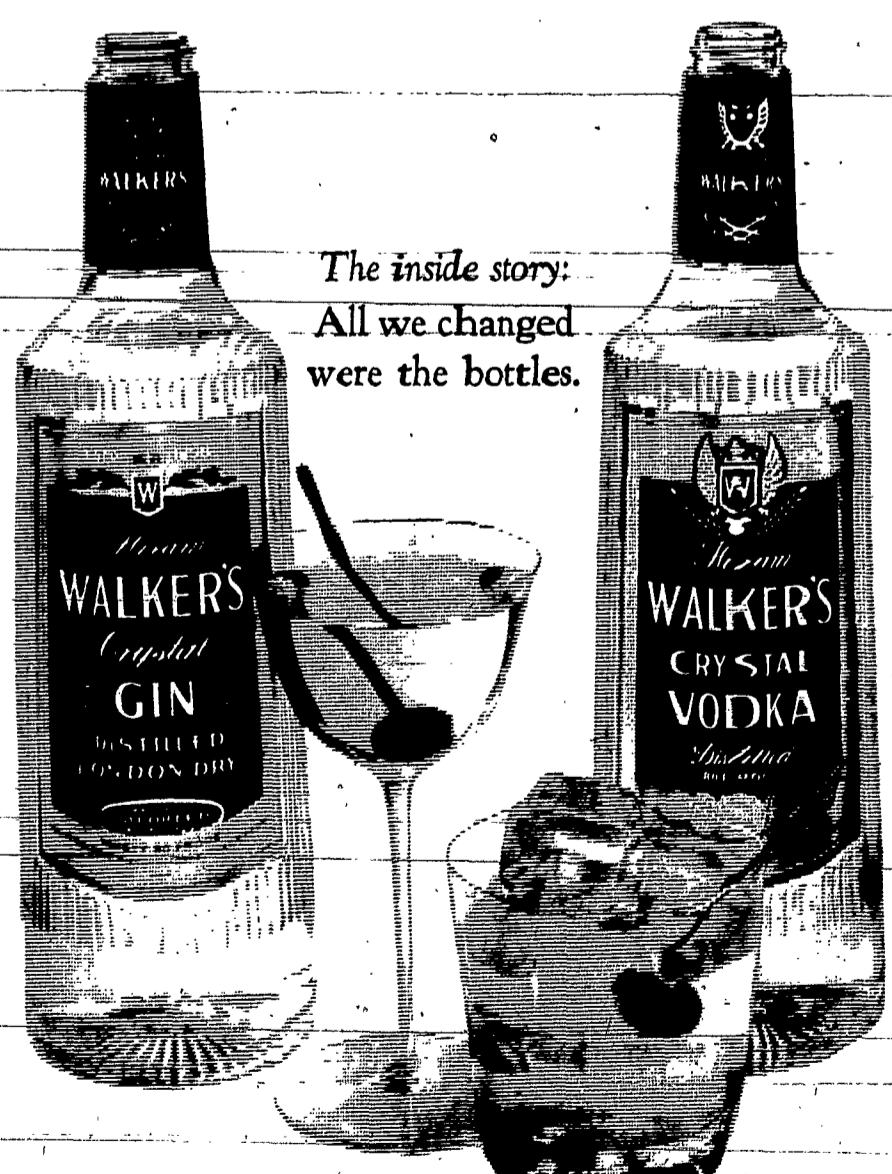
He said there are three reasons for "the bad press" which the Catholic Church has in the United States—"the siege mentality of ecclesiastical officials," a "lack of professionalism," and a "failure to read the signs of the times."

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