

Up in the Air . . .



**Airborne Ambulance**

San Antonio—(RNS)—Helicopter service for critically ill or injured patients from fringe city areas has been inaugurated by the Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio. Here a "chopper" lands on the 11th floor of the Catholic center's hospital for children in a trial run made by Paul A. Boskind of Hell-Cab of Texas. With him is Sister Mary Brian of the hospital and another passenger.

# The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Journal

77th Year

ROCHESTER, N.Y., FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1966

Price 15 cents

## Two More Steps Into the World

Pope Paul this week pushed the Catholic Church at least two steps further into the world—and added a word of caution as he did so.

He announced at Rome he was establishing a provisional committee to mobilize the Church's laity for a more effective impact in solving the world's pressing problems.

He also authorized Catholics to work in closer collaboration with the World Council of Protestant and Orthodox Churches which met this week in Geneva, Switzerland, to speak "a relevant word" on the "urgent social questions of our era."

His word of caution was given to theologians in Rome, warning them there are limits "beyond which it is most imprudent to go."

The Pope pinpointed Adam's original sin as the source "whence comes the great number of mankind's troubles." He told the theologians they must not take "into serious consideration" the evolution hypothesis of polygenism—the idea that there were multiple "first" men, nor should they question "the immediate creation of all and every human soul by God."

Whatever the source of "mankind's troubles," however, the Pope was obviously more interested in present efforts of churchmen to solve these problems.

His delegates to the Geneva meeting heard the distinguished ecumenical leader, Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, retiring secretary of the World Council of Churches, describe the world's basic trouble as "the gap be-

tween affluent and non-affluent societies."

"We know," he said, "that unless a profound change takes place in the thought and action of the developed nations the world will become increasingly divided between a Northern part getting richer than is good for its soul and a Southern part which will continue to be plagued by poverty and probably even by widespread and acute famine."

"And we know," Dr. Visser 't Hooft continued, "that this must lead not only to increasing bitterness but sharp conflict of international dimensions."

He pointed out that people have been unwilling to face the fact that the "present forms of governmental aid and of giving by the churches . . . are not really coming nearer to a solution of the problem."

"What is lacking," he said, "is a dynamic moral conviction about our inescapable duty. We need to proclaim that in this world of our time we are our brothers' keeper and keeping does not mean keeping our

wealth in our pockets or under our thumbs. . . ."

The papal committee for the laity established this week was called for by the Vatican Council and reflects the concern voiced by Dr. Visser 't Hooft.

The Council stated, "In view of the immense hardships which still afflict the majority of men today, the Council regards it as most opportune that some agency of the universal Church be set up for the worldwide promotion of justice for the poor and of Christ's love for them. The role of such an organization will be to stimulate the Catholic community to foster progress in needy regions, and social justice on the international scene."

Named to the new committee were Cardinal Maurice Roy of Quebec as president, and among others, Professor August Vanistendael of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, Dr. Johannes Schauf of Germany, Dr. Vittorio Veronesi of UNESCO and Miss Rosemary Goldie of Australia, secretary of the Permanent Committee for International Congresses of the Lay Apostolate.

### U.S. Catholics Tops

Vatican City—(RNS)—Catholics throughout the world contributed \$27,152,365 last year to the International Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Vatican Radio reported. It said this was an increase of \$2,273,685 over 1964.

The United States, with offerings totaling \$15,946,635, topped all contributing countries, the next highest sum coming from West Germany, Italy, Spain, France and Canada. Funds of the Propagation of the Faith are distributed to Catholic missions everywhere in the form of "ordinary" and "extraordinary" grants.

### Monsignor Connors

## 'God Has Been Good to Me'

The priest who said he "couldn't stand to be inactive" will be laid to rest this morning.

Monsignor Thomas F. Connors, venerable pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester, died the morning of his 96th birthday, Tuesday, July 12.

Bishop Kearney will offer the Mass and speak at the funeral rites to be held today in Blessed Sacrament Church at 10:30 a.m.

Monsignor Connors, who resigned in 1963 his administra-

tive duties at the parish he founded in 1901, continued an active pastoral ministry until he was stricken by a heart failure Monday, July 4.

He remarked recently, "God has been very good to me. He has let me say Mass every day of my more than 65 years in the priesthood except for two occasions when I was hospitalized some years back."

He was long a familiar sight as he visited the sick in Rochester's hospitals, particularly at Park Avenue Hospital. Parishioners testify that he was invariably also the first to arrive to console them when a member of the family had died.

His close to a century span of life was spent virtually in its entirety in the city of Rochester.

He once said he had been talked into taking a vacation in San Francisco but "after one day, I just had to come back" and this inability to be away from the people for whom he was ordained characterized him to the end.

When he retired from administering the parish three years ago he let it be known that this didn't mean retirement. "I'll have more time to visit the sick and for trying to get Catholics who have fallen away from the practice of their faith back to church."

Hundreds of Catholics who visited him in death the past two days readily admit the success of his efforts.

His greatest monument is, therefore, the faith and devotion of three generations he has served as pastor at Blessed Sacrament parish.

And the parish buildings are monuments in carved wood and stone to his exquisite good taste as well as his vibrant faith—a magnificent Gothic church, a school with nearly 800 pupils, a new convent and a new rectory. Monsignor Connors also had hopes of someday building a recreation center for the young people of the area.

He was also alert to the changes called for by the Vatican Council and, after careful practice and memorizing of texts, recently began to celebrate his Mass facing the people and in English—despite more than six decades of contrary habit.

And although he was ordained in 1898, he invariably remarked it would have been sooner had it not been for obligations to his family.

He said he long wanted to be a priest but as one of ten children he decided he better help support the family.

(Continued on Page 14)



Monsignor Thomas F. Connors. A photo taken in his rectory library fifteen years ago.

### IF YOU MOVE . . .

let us know about it so we can keep your Courier coming to you on time. Phone or mail us notice of your change of address. Include your old address and new address and the name of your parish.

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### Parish Councils

#### Include Laity

Saskatoon — (RNS) — Parish councils will be set up throughout the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon by January.

Bishop F. J. Klein said it would be "premature" to establish a Diocesan Council as recommended recently by a diocesan committee, but he hoped most of the committee's recommendations can be implemented "in the not too distant future."

A few parishes already have councils, but most of the 40 that make up the diocese do not.

Twelve year old Edmund Girzone was on trial.

Spiek and span in his Sunday best, Edmund sat in Albany County Supreme Court as arguments were heard in the case of the East Greenbush Central School District vs. the New York State education commissioner and six parents of the district.

Symbolically, Edmund clutched three books as the test case of the New York State textbook law got under way Friday, July 8, before Justice T. Paul Kane. Justice Kane reserved decision but it is likely that the case will be appealed to the Court of Appeals and

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### A Time To Work

"Life's race well run, life's work well done; life's victory won!" said a poet. Summer, vacation time for some, means bone-wearying work for others, as for this French farmer. Photo is from Hallmark Gallery in New York City.

### Bibles Bulge From VW

Moscow — (RNS) — Three British tourists and a Dutch citizen were expelled from the Soviet Union for attempting to smuggle religious literature into the country, Moscow Radio reported.

It said Anthony Richard Hippley and his wife, Anne Marie, tried to smuggle through a border checkpoint 400 Bibles and other books which they had received from the British and Foreign Bible Society for "illegal" circulation in the U.S.S.R.

The books, the station said, were concealed in eight secret compartments in a specially adapted Volkswagen.

### Courier Summer Specials

This week . . . a quiz to find out how you like the changes in the Church as a result of the Vatican Council. Turn to page five, fill in your replies and send the survey to the Courier.

Also this week . . . two years in Brazil, a report from the Sisters of St. Joseph in their mission work in the heart of South America's biggest nation, also on page five.

Then next week . . . a trip to Moscow. Father William Amann of Our Lady of Mercy parish in the Town of Greece recently visited Iron Curtain countries including Soviet Russia. The first in a series of articles describing his trip will be published in next week's Courier, illustrated.

And also next week . . . a trip to South America. Monsignor John F. Duffy's report on his journey to Brazil and Chile for an on-the-spot check of mission work of nuns from the Rochester Diocese.

### Vatican Eyes Cuba Contact

Vatican City — (RNS) — Archbishop Sergio Pigneddli, Apostolic Delegate in Canada, is expected here soon to discuss with Vatican officials the possibility of reestablishing diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Cuba.

Vatican officials said the primary goal was to come to some arrangement that would permit the Church to carry on an effective apostolate in the island where there are now only 200 priests—considerably less than the 732 at the beginning of 1961, when the Castro regime began large-scale expulsion of foreign-born, largely Spanish, clergymen.

## Textbooks for Catholic Pupils Under Fire in Albany

Opponents of a new N.Y. State law authorizing textbooks for pupils in Catholic schools launched a court battle early this month to block the project. The New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, coordinating agency of the state's Catholic bishops released this article this week.

possibly the U.S. Supreme Court.

The issue before the court is: should Edmund — and 350,000 other parochial school students in the state—receive textbooks that are paid through public funds. His father, and the other five parents in the case, believe that at least a portion of their taxes should be used for the education of their own children.

The state textbook law was passed by the 1965 legislature and signed by Governor Rockefeller. It was amended in 1966 and the state formula of aid is 15 times the number of pa-

rochial and public school children in grades 7 through 12.

The East Greenbush School District — where Edmund Girzone resides—initiated the test case and the American Civil Liberties Union agreed to prosecute. Marvin E. Pollock, attorney for the board and the ACLU, argued that aid to the parochial school student was, in fact, aid to a church-operated school and therefore a violation of the separation of church and state.

Mr. Pollock claimed that the "floodgates would be open" to uncontrolled aid to church-related schools.

As Edmund Girzone, holding math, science and social studies texts which he wants the school board to supply him with, heard his father's counselor, Porter R. Chandler of New York City, declare that "Catholic schools are not schools for second rate citizens," he might have recalled, in the words of President Johnson, that every child deserves the best education our nation can provide.

The textbook law, Mr. Chandler said, provides aid to the child — Edmund Girzone—and not to St. Mary's School which he attends.

Moreover, he added, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides, in addition to the free choice of religion, the right to the exercise of religion. He said that a concept

that aid is permissible to private and public school pupils and not to parochial school children comes "perilously close to being an infringement on the free exercise of religion."

The hearing lasted about an hour. Judge Kane called another case. The lawyers filed from the room followed by Edmund and his father who had closed his small butcher shop to be in court.

The lawyers continued to discuss the case; Edmund clutched his three textbooks and murmured half-loudly: "I don't understand this."

**CLOCKS — ELECTRIC or KEY-WOUND. \$8.95 and up. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 518 Main St. E.—Adv.**