

# No Textbooks for Pupils in Catholic Schools?

## If You Want Justice, Shout for it!

Parents will get a fair share of government funds for their youngsters in Catholic schools only when they shout loud and long enough.

There are some situations you can settle by polite conversations.

Catholic schools isn't one of them.

It's as clear as can be that the clergy aren't going to win the textbook battle.

And it's clearer still that the courts and legisla-

tors act effectively only when prodded strongly by public opinion.

We have graphic evidence for this in the recent airline machinists strike and the continuing Negro demonstrations for civil rights.

There wouldn't be much civil rights legislation if there hadn't been a bus boycott in Birmingham, the spectacle of Selma and the massive march on Washington.

No matter whether you agree with him or not,

you've got to admit that Dr. Martin Luther King gets his message across to the nation and to the world.

Until we can find a better way to get a bit of justice in this matter, maybe we need to do some marching, some demonstrating, some sit-ins or boycotts too. And there's always the ace up our sleeve by spilling all the pupils in Catholic schools into public school classrooms and let our critics and antagonists decide then if they prefer the cost of total education to the \$15 for textbooks ruled unconstitutional by a New York State Supreme Court last week.

The decision simply reflects the widespread notion that pupils in Catholic schools are second-class citizens who have surrendered their rights to what the government provides pupils in public schools.

If Negroes and machinists can stand together to attain their goals, then why can't Catholics? And if Catholics aren't interested enough to act effectively for the rights of children in Catholic schools, maybe we might as well close them down anyway.

—Father Henry A. Aswell

### Remnant of 'Know Nothings'

## Textbook Decision Rooted in Bigotry

A State Supreme Court decision which last week ruled that New York's textbook loan law was unconstitutional has sparked a move to revise the restrictive church-state section of the state constitution.

Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF) will launch a major statewide drive for "a constitution which does not discriminate against children in religious schools," its state vice-president, Reuben E. Gross, announced. Gross, a New York City resident, is the father of six children in Hebrew Day schools.

Gross stated that CEF will conduct an extensive membership campaign between now and November, when delegates will be chosen for the 1967 state constitutional convention.

"We will question every candidate and we will publicize their positions for or against the church-state section of the New York constitution," he said.

### Diocese Schools Enrollment Up, Open Sept. 7th

An estimated 56,568 pupils are expected to enroll in Catholic elementary and high schools in the Diocese of Rochester this fall. Monsignor William M. Roche, Diocesan superintendent of schools announced today.

102 Catholic elementary schools and 17 high schools will reopen Wednesday, Sept. 7. 45,852 pupils are registered on the elementary level, with 10,716 enrolled in secondary schools.

The figures represent a slight rise in total enrollment at both levels of education. Enrollment figures of Oct. 1, 1965 showed 45,535 elementary school students and 10,442 secondary school students enrolled in diocesan schools.

Ratio of lay teachers to religious teachers will continue to rise in the coming year, according to figures from the Schools Office. Lay teachers this fall will comprise 47% of the elementary grade teachers and 33% of the secondary school teachers.

The breakdown of lay-religious teachers shows 558 lay teachers and 650 religious at the elementary school level; 149 lay teachers and 396 religious (priests, brothers and sisters) at the high school level.

It is estimated that the Catholic elementary and high schools within the Rochester diocese will save taxpayers almost \$95 million dollars this year. This figure is based on a State Department of Education estimate that education now costs approximately \$50 a year per pupil in the public grade schools and \$900 per pupil in the public high schools.

### Two Diocesan Colleges Enroll 2,300

The Diocese of Rochester's two Catholic colleges, Nazareth and St. John Fisher, will hold their opening classes on Wednesday, Sept. 14, with bulging enrollments the order of the day.

Nazareth's student body will be approximately 1,175 - 1,200 students according to last estimates from the Registrar's office. St. John Fisher's enrollment stands at 1,125 (compared to last year's 1,010) as of this week.

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The CEF move followed closely in the wake of State Supreme Court Justice P. Paul Kane's ruling last week (Aug. 19) that a recently enacted textbook loan law was, in effect, assistance to the schools.

The Kane ruling was directed at the provision relating to parochial school pupils. It makes it impossible for them to receive the books on loan from the state, while it leaves students attending other private schools, as well as public schools, eligible to receive the books.

In making his decision, Judge Kane cited Article 11, Section 3 (the Blaine amendment) of the New York State Constitution, which prohibits the state from using any public money, "directly or indirectly" to aid and church-related institution. The Blaine amendment was added to the state constitution in 1894.

Judge Kane also stated that the textbook law appeared to violate the First Amendment of the federal constitution.

Commenting on the Kane decision, Reuben Gross stated: "CEF is in favor of separation of Church and State, but not in favor of separation of the child from the public benefits to which he is entitled."

Gross made a sharp distinction between the federal and state constitutions when he declared: "CEF is in favor of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, a product of enlightened thinking which protects religious freedom, but is opposed to the State Constitution's Know-Nothing amendment, a product of 19th century bigotry, which restricts religious freedom."

Gross predicted a sharp rise in state CEF membership in the coming months by "citizens who will participate in an educational campaign to remove all vestiges of bigotry from the state constitution."

Further criticism of the Kane decision came from Charles J. Tobin, secretary of the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, who termed the decision a "backward step."

Tobin noted that Judge Kane's verdict seemed to disagree with a Supreme Court decision of 1980, the Cochrane case, also concerning textbooks. Tobin said that the U.S. Supreme Court in that instance had decided that textbooks were aid to the children, not to the schools.

Locally, Monsignor William M. Roche, superintendent of schools for the Rochester Diocese, bluntly labeled the Kane verdict "a wrong decision," and added that it "spells up the absurdity of the New York Constitution."

Application is expected to be made shortly to stay the Kane ruling to permit an appeal. Granting of the stay would permit school districts to implement the law until a final decision is made by the higher courts.

The textbook law, which was to become effective Sept. 1, required local boards to lend textbooks selected from state-approved books to children attending private and parochial schools in grades 7-12, with reimbursement from the state up to \$15 per pupil.

Justice Kane issued his decision in a case brought by the East Greenbush, N.Y. Board of Education, which was represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

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## Another Step to Unity

Washington — (NC) — Suggested procedures for Catholic dioceses and parishes considering membership in councils of churches are contained in a document issued jointly by the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Commission for Ecumenical Affairs and the National Council of Churches.

The document recommends an extended period of "mutual preparation" by Catholic dioceses or parishes and councils of churches prior to actual Catholic membership.

But after such preparation, it says, it is possible for a Catholic body to "join wholeheartedly."

The archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M., is the only Catholic diocese in the country which now belongs to a council of churches. Individual Catholic parishes in several states belong to their local church councils. In addition, Catholic priests in a number of areas have joined local ministerial associations—more informal bodies than the church councils, which are federations of Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox bodies.

The new document was prepared by the working group of the Bishops' Commission for Ecumenical Affairs and the National Council of Churches. It is entitled "Information on Relations Between the Roman Catholic Church and Council of Churches."

The "information" is the first document issued by the working group, which was established last May.

In a memorandum accompanying this "information," the

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Father Stec with gift from Poland's Cardinal.

## Gift from Primate

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Poland's outspoken critic of the Communist regime which dominates his homeland, has sent a gift to St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester, to mark a thousand years of faith in Poland.

The gift is a full-color reproduction of the famed painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa, national patroness of Poland.

Father Alexander Stec, pas-

### Lithuanians Plan Meeting

Washington — (NC)—Some 15,000 Lithuanians living in the free world are expected to attend a religious congress here over the Labor Day weekend. The highlight of the meeting will be the dedication of the new chapel of Our Lady of Siuiva in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

tor at St. Stanislaus, said the picture will be framed and hung in the church. The picture shows the painting in its original form, without the crowns and jewels which have been added in recent centuries.

A Latin explanation of the gift says the decorations were taken away for photographing the ancient painting, said to have been done by the Gospel writer St. Luke.

Cardinal Wyszyński has sent copies of the picture to dioceses and parishes around the world where there are large numbers of Catholics of Polish descent.

A three-day series of spiritual devotions at St. Stanislaus Church this week will conclude today, feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Father Stec visited the historic shrine in Poland when he was a graduate student at Cracow University from 1936 to 1938.

## Poland's 1000 Years Of Faith

Ten million Americans of Polish descent will observe this Sunday as the thousandth anniversary of Poland's conversion to the Christian faith.

High point of the observance will be a Mass at Chicago's Soldier Field stadium with a congregation of 175,000.

Christendom's largest altar, like the rim of a huge wheel, has been constructed for the 25 bishops and priests who will celebrate the Mass.

A vacant chair will dramatize the absence of Poland's Primate, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. Poland's Communist government refused to let him out of the country to attend the millennium rites in the United States.

The embattled prelate did manage, however, to send a reproduction of an historic chalice to be used at the Chicago Mass.

The original Dabrowka Chalice now at Trzemeszno in northern Poland is named for the Czech Princess Dabrowka who went to Poland in the year 985 to marry the first king of Poland, Duke Mieszko I. The new king joined the Church of his bride and the nation followed his example, shifting the nation's destiny to Christianity and the West.

Its present Soviet dominated government has created a sharp tension between Church and State pitting the rock of the faith against Premier Wladyslaw Gomułka in several bitter word battles.

Symbol of Poland's tenacious hold on the faith is the famed portrait of Our Lady of Czestochowa, brought from a castle in Ruthenia in 1382 and since then honored at a shrine 130 miles southwest of Warsaw. The picture is somewhat similar to the familiar picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

A fortress monastery on a low hill called Jasna Gora, Shining Mountain, houses the painting which legend says is the work of St. Luke.

The painting bears the scars of centuries and its survival is perhaps a greater miracle than any attributed to its strange and turbulent career.

A thirteenth century Tartar bow pierced the neck of the Madonna and amber slashes cut the face in 1430.

Crowns from Pope St. Pius X and jewels from grateful pilgrims adorn the picture today.

When Poland gained its independence after World War I Jasna Gora became the national Shrine.

In 1925 the Polish nation again proclaimed the Madonna of Jasna Gora the Queen of Poland. The feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa, is observed annually on August 26th.

Before World War II broke out this Shrine attracted many pilgrims from Eastern and Central Europe and from the United States. Now, although the pilgrimages cannot resume their prewar popularity, the Polish people still retain their attachment to Our Lady. To every Pole Czestochowa is what Lourdes is to the French and Fatima to the Portuguese.

Every 50 years the picture is taken out and carried in procession around the ramparts of the monastery. The year 1986 was an exception to the fifty-year rule. In 1986 Poland had its own Marian Year to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Mary's coronation as Queen of Poland.

### Robing Rite To Follow Radio Rosary

Bishop Kearney will invest Monsignor Joseph Cirincione in the red robes of his new rank following recitation of the Rosary on the Family Rosary for Peace radio program Monday, August 29.

The Bishop will lead in recitation of the Rosary and the parish choir will sing hymns honoring our Lady during the broadcast which will originate from St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester. The program is aired nightly on a network of five stations.

A reception honoring Monsignor Cirincione, who was recently elevated to the rank of papal chamberlain by Pope Paul, will be held at the St. Francis of Assisi parish center Sunday, Sept. 11, from 8 to 9 p.m. Parishioners and friends are invited.



### Too Many To Ticket

Vatican City — (RNS) — St. Peter's Basilica looks like a drive-in church during the height of the summer tourist season. Visitors and pilgrims to the basilica turn St. Peter's Piazza into a huge sea of parked automobiles. Though parking is illegal, police have given up attempts to issue tickets.