

Shorter Superior For Maryknoll

Maryknoll, N.Y. — (RNS) — Father John J. McCormack, M.M., of Yonkers, N.Y., was elected fifth Superior General of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, better known as the Maryknoll Fathers.

Superior and director of the Maryknoll Seminary in Hingham, Mass., Father McCormack was named at the order's General Chapter here. He succeeds Bishop John W. Comber, M.M., superior since 1956.

Father McCormack will be the first superior to serve for a six-year term. At earlier sessions, the Chapter reduced the superior's term of office from ten to six years with approval of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome.

Births Drop In East Europe

Munich — (NC) — East Europe's communist leaders are now worried about their birth rate problem. Too few babies are being born.

The three basic reasons for the low birth rates are: East European nations have more women than men in their populations; abortions are legal; and the use of contraceptives is becoming widespread.

The RFE survey released here quoted a Hungarian doctor as saying recently, "We have to reinstate the respect due motherhood or this may have a catastrophic effect within a few decades."

East Europe is faced with the problem of having some of the world's lowest birth rates coupled to a steadily aging population.

The baby shortage is most acute in Hungary, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia.

Prisoners Lack 'Harmony'

Baltimore — (RNS) — The problem of teaching inmates to relate to normal social relationships is compounded in correctional institutions which keep prisoners isolated from society, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore, said here.

Addressing the 96th annual Congress of Correction, the cardinal said: "It is obvious that those found in the correctional setting have not recognized their social status. They have been unable to relate to other human beings. They have not found the meaning of interdependence. Yet strangely enough, traditional correctional programs have isolated the offender from social living."

Referring to himself as "a layman speaking to professionals," the cardinal said that in matters of correctional procedure, "even the finest might logically ask how it is possible to teach human beings interdependent relationships and social interaction in an isolated situation."

"This seems to be the basic problem confronting correctional programs in our country," he continued. "The billions of dollars that we spend on technological improvements and the material sciences are of value only to the extent that they increase the potential of the individual to live in harmony with others."

Cardinal Shehan suggested to the nearly 2,000 correctional workers that the nature of healthy family life is an essential part of penology.

11 Days on Picket Line

Milwaukee (RNS) — Father James E. Groppi led 150 pickets in a civil rights demonstration in suburban Wauwatosa for the 11th straight day after having conferred a few hours earlier with Archbishop William E. Cousins, head of the Milwaukee Roman Catholic archdiocese.

The archbishop had indicated beforehand that he would order Father Groppi to halt the demonstrations if he determined that the priest was "calling the shots."

Neither would comment after their meeting.

"Don't build a feud between Father Groppi and the archdiocese," the archbishop told reporters.

Father Groppi is adviser to the Milwaukee Youth Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The 54-year-old white priest, an assistant pastor of St. Boniface Catholic church in Milwaukee's Negro inner core, recently moved from the church rectory into the "Freedom House," rented by the Youth Council.

The Council has been picketing the home of Circuit Judge Robert C. Cannon to protest his membership in the all-white Eagles club.

Judge Cannon has refused to resign from the club, saying that he opposed the restrictive membership clause but wanted to work from within to reform the rule.

Gov. Warren P. Knowles again ordered the Wisconsin National Guard to aid police in controlling crowds at the demonstrations, but the number of troops was cut from 400 to 100.

Careful planning by peace officers and the presence of more than 500 National Guardsmen, deputy sheriffs and policemen prevented a confrontation between white spectators and civil rights demonstrators. However, five white spectators were arrested when the demonstrators headed home. The five were accused of disorderly conduct — heckling and fighting, police said.



Milwaukee — (RNS) — Father James E. Groppi, assistant pastor of St. Boniface Church in Milwaukee's Negro section, has been actively supporting civil rights demonstrations in the suburb of Wauwatosa.

Changes Made In Funeral Ceremonies

St. Louis (NC) — Permission has been given for evening funerals in the St. Louis archdiocese.

A letter to all priests from the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission specified other changes possible in funeral Mass. They included:

—An option to say a low Mass for the sake of participation. Lectors, and the use of a choir rather than a solo voice if the Mass is sung, were also suggested.

—Permission to use the Mass of the Day or a "suitable" votive Mass for the funeral of a child of grade school age. The color of vestments could correspond to the Mass said.

—An opportunity to modify some of the expressions in the Ritual "as long as the meaning is retained."

The guidelines were based partly on recommendations made by priests themselves at deanery level meetings earlier this year.

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Clergy Celibacy too Great a Burden?

(Continued from Page 1)

In what now appears to be a continuing dialogue around the issue, a contrary note was sounded recently by a noted psychiatrist, Dr. Bernard H. Hall, director of outpatient services at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kans., in an address at St. Louis (Mo.) University to delegates of Catholic religious orders.

His message was that a commitment to celibacy was something that any candidate for the religious life must think about long and carefully.

Dr. Hall noted a disturbing number of cases of mental illness arising among nuns and priests for whom the vow of celibacy had become a grave problem.

He warned that superiors should be certain that the religious candidate who anticipates the vow of chastity knows the significance of that vow and his capability, psychologically, to take that vow.

Dr. Hall said it was easy for the young adolescent to think that "once he enters the monastery his sexuality will go away, that once ordained his sexuality will really go away."

"We must," he added, "anticipate with him that things may get worse rather than better, and that if he chooses to witness the faith by taking this particular vow, he must be prepared to dedicate himself to that vow until the moment of his death."

The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (formerly the Holy Office) which deals with matters affecting faith and morals has permitted a number of priests not only to relinquish their priestly office and become laymen but even to get married.

In an editorial last May the Canadian Register, official publication of several Ontario dioceses, urged that "while the other-worldly bond of celibacy has not changed and will not, as a general rule, the evangelization of souls in particular circumstances, or the salvation of individuals caught in intolerable situations may justify limited adaptations and merciful liberation more easily today than in the past."

In Holland, where there have been a number of recent cases of priests marrying with Vatican dispensation, Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, Archbishop of

Utrecht, has urged that the Vatican speed up the procedures under which it grants special permission in certain circumstances for priests to marry.

At the same time, the cardinal commented: "I think I would give a wrong impression of my priests if I said the majority felt celibacy to be a burden."

About the same time, an American priest — Father Eugene C. Kennedy, M.M., a psychologist of Maryknoll Seminary, Glen Ellyn, Ill., wrote in The Critic, a national Catholic bi-monthly, that celibacy and the vow of chastity are invitations to the same kind of unselfish giving as in marriage.

The theme of service was one which Pope Pius XII underlined in his encyclical on virginity in March, 1954, saying that "it is easy to understand why those who wish to consecrate themselves to God's service embrace the state of virginity as a liberation, so as to be more completely at the disposal of God and of their neighbor."

The Roman pontiff has incessantly stressed the need for generous souls to dedicate themselves to the service of the Church in the four categories of secular and religious priests, Brothers and nuns, with celibacy the prime symbol of their complete dedication.

This raised the question, however, whether modern youth has become increasingly reluctant to take on such a complete commitment of self.

A somber indication may be seen in the serious drop-off in spiritual vocations in recent decades.

Addressing the 24th National Convention of Serra International in St. Louis, Mo., Father Louis Luzbetak, S.V.D., director of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate in Washington, D.C., warned of signs of "a vocation crisis in the United States similar to that in Europe."

Stressing that one of the basic theological questions of the day concerns "the relevance of priestly celibacy in our times," the priest noted that in the archdiocese of Baltimore, with half a million Catholics, had only 51 new priests this year, and that the Boston archdiocese, with 1,800,000 Catholics, had only 31 new priests.

The Serra organization is made up of Catholic businessmen and professional men who seek to promote vocations to the priesthood. Its newly-elected president is Dutch-born Jan M. J. Berbers of Montevideo, Uruguay, who said current talk of defections from the ranks of the priesthood, and of celibacy being impossible, had increased disturbances among seminarians.

For that reason, he stressed, we (1) must supply figures so that our young people will know that there is too much fuss about defections; (2) make clear the multiple examples of excellent priests; and (3) show our young people "the beauty of love in the family, but how

much more beautiful is the pure love given for Christ alone."

Host to the convention was Joseph Cardinal Ritter, Archbishop of St. Louis, who agreed on the need "to present to our youth a dynamic and meaningful Church to engage their dedication to a life of sacrifice and service."

Earlier in St. Louis, Father Bernard Cooke, S.J., chairman of the department of theology at Marquette University, told a gathering of 300 Catholic religious that celibacy was "the most deeply and totally involving" of the vows by which a religious is committed to community existence.

When he was questioned later by the National Catholic Reporter of Kansas City, which has long opened its columns to frank expressions of views on priestly celibacy, Father Cooke said celibacy was a different question in regard to the diocesan clergy, "but obviously not a closed issue since we have married clergy in the United States."

Asked if celibacy is required by the nature of the priesthood, Father Cooke replied, "You can't answer simply one direction or the other. There is an intrinsic link between the priesthood and having at least some celibate clergy. But it is not an absolute link that requires universal celibacy in the entire Church."

Pope Paul, in a letter to the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council at their final session,

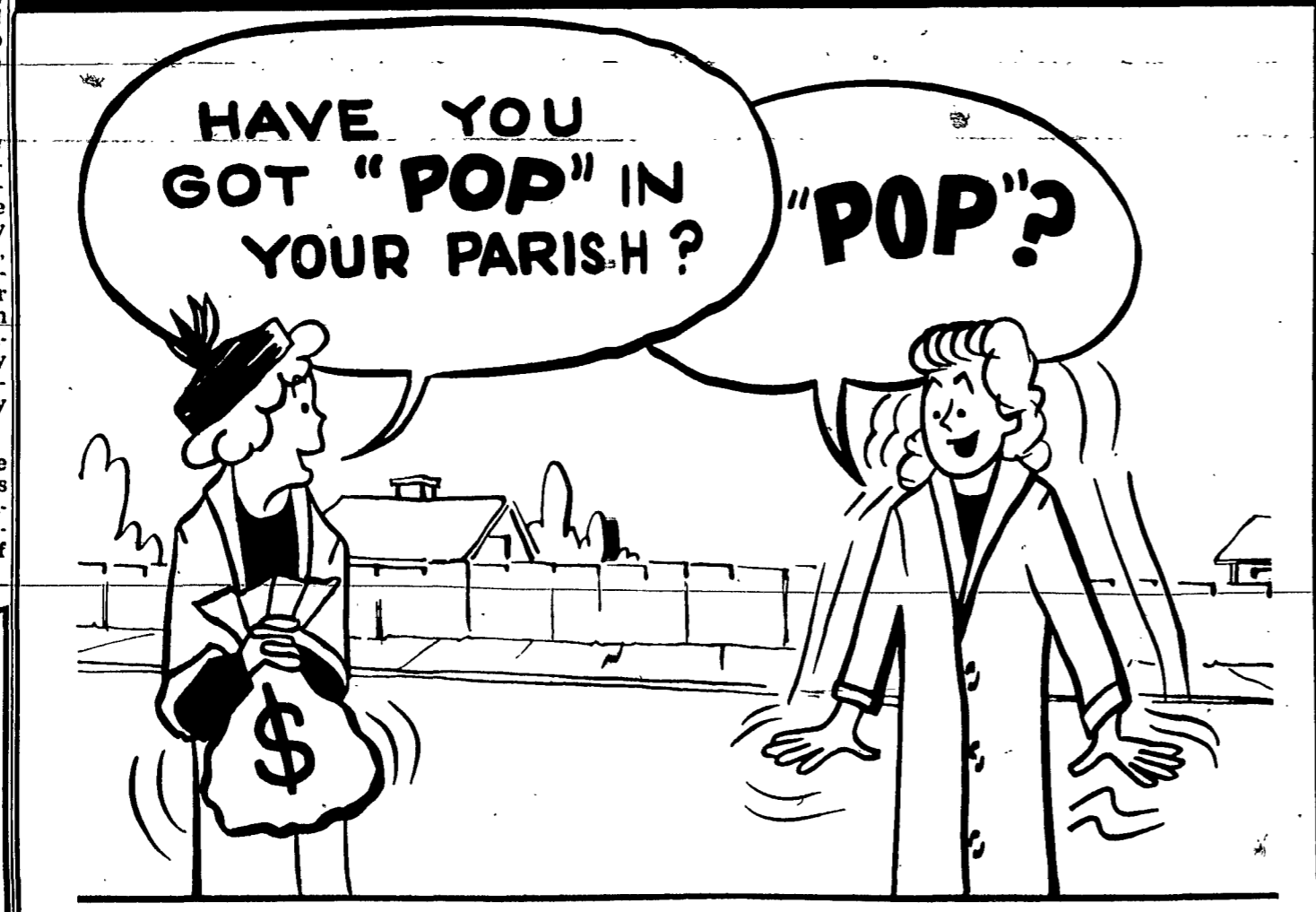
ruled out discussion of the celibacy question on the Council floor. He said he did not believe a subject of such delicacy should be openly debated.

The Council is over now, but the debate on clerical celibacy continues on broad fronts here and in other countries. The editor of the National Catholic Reporter, Robert Hoyt, was himself one of 81 Catholic laymen from many countries who urged the establishment of a post-conciliar committee to study the requirement of priestly celibacy. This was shortly after the Pope's letter to the Vatican Council.

"Faithful priests," the laymen said in their petition, "are finding it increasingly difficult to radiate the new glory of the Church in a state of celibacy which to many true followers of Christ appears to be imposed by law rather than embraced by one's own free will."

They claimed that many priests doubt the wisdom of Church law requiring parish clergy to remain celibate. Nevertheless, the laymen said, they had no desire to see all priests married.

"We merely would submit," they declared, "that the Church would consider whether she ought not to enable her priests to occupy their office of their own free will either in the married or unmarried state. It would seem to be a pressing desideratum to reconsider whether at least this cause of the painful shortage of priests should not be removed."

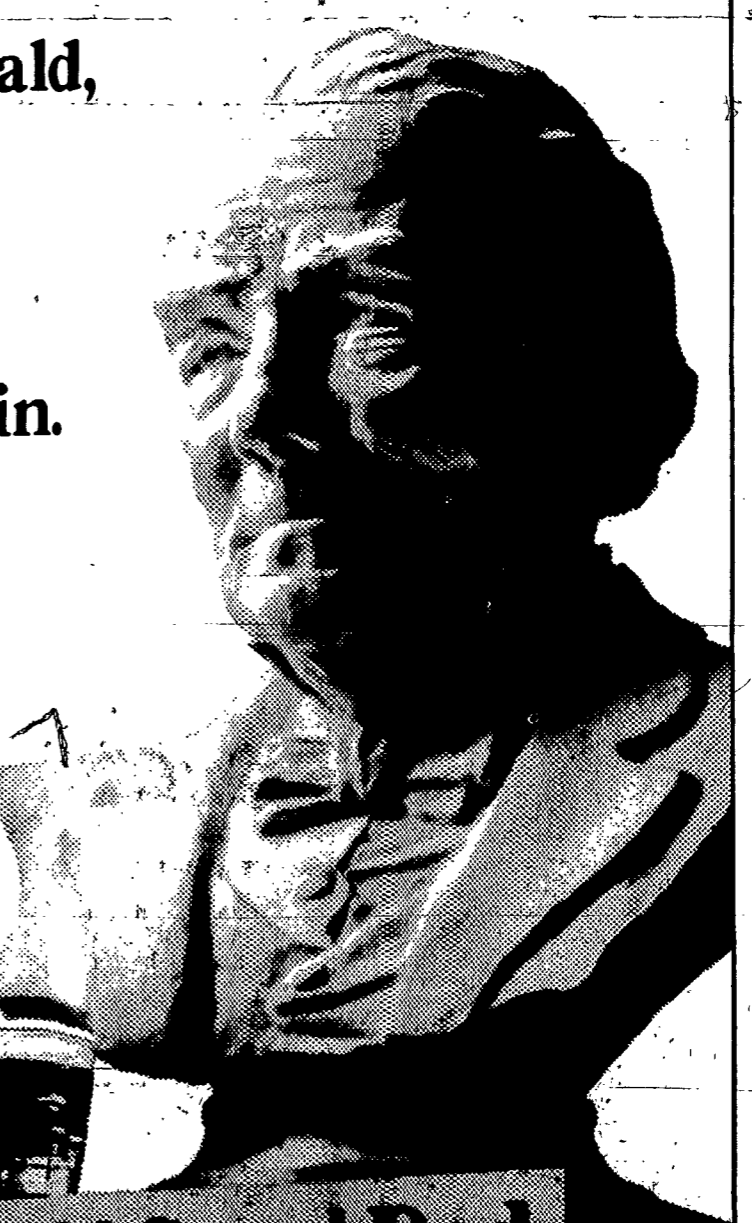


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Red Mass Opens Court

(Continued from Page 6)

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Supreme Court Justice Seventh Judicial District Honorable G. Robert W. Charles B. Brassler, Dan O'Mara, Clarence H. I. Charles Lambise, Dan Macken, Clarence J. Henrigan, G. Easton, Jacob Domesick L. Gabrielli, E. Livingston, Austin V. win, Jr., Marvin R. Dye, C. O'Brien, John C. W. Fred D. Cribb, Earle S. ner, Goodman H. S. a. r. James P. B. Duffy.

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Monroe County Court Honorable Michael L. F. George D. Ogden, Har Rosenthal, John J. Copw siph, G. Frisch, Emm Schrepp, Norman H. Caroling, W. Branch, Ro City Court, the Hon James P. Sheehan, Thon Cullane, Emmett L. Do yphome L. Cassetti and V. Curran, Jr.

County Court Judges, Monroe County, the Hon Gerald S. Hewitt, Gerald erstein, Carrollton A. R. Joseph W. Cribb, Jerome Wolff, Alton J. Wight George B. Parsons, Lynn Smith.

Sister Casimir

Funeral Rite

Sister Mary Casimir of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy, died Thursday, Sept. 7, 1966, in the Motherhouse Infirmary. She was 70 old and had completed 51 religious life. Sister Casimir has been confessor in the Infirmary for the past years.

Born Irene White Marbury, Mass., Sister Casimir entered the Sisters of Mercy community in 1915. She taught at St. School, Owego and at a mel school in Rochester for several years. Previous to her religious life she was engaged in domestic work at the house.

Requiem funeral Mass conducted Saturday, Sept. 8 a.m. in the Sisters of Motherhouse Chapel. R. thony J. Valente, chaplain, the Sisters of Mercy, vbrant, Sister Mary Maje ducted the sisters' choir ment was in Holy Se Cemetery.

To Naples, It

Miss Mary Ann Aiello, ter of Mr. and Mrs. Aiello of St. Theodore's Gates, a graduate of College, will be granted this year in Naples. It dex a grant from Tufts city.

Final Vo Made by

Michael E. T. O seminarians who members of the Paul ori Sept. 8 at St. P Apostle Church, New Y

The Very Rev. John gerald, C.S.P., Superior of the Paulist Father brated the Mass and at the ceremony. Rev. J. Walsh, C.S.P., gen sulator of the Commu livered the sermon.

Mr. O'Brien atten John the Evangelist S St. Andrew's minor ra Rochester. In 196 tured the Paulist No Oak Ridge, N.J., where one year before movi Paulist major semin Paul's College, Wa D.C. There he will con studies for the priest his ordination.

One of nine child O'Brien is a brother Mary Assumpta, R.S.M. Lady of Mercy Mot Ste is a member faculty of Catherine

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