

Work for Blind, Deaf 'Highest Christian Love'

Vatican City — (NC) — In an audience granted members of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind Pope Paul VI referred to their work as "one of the highest forms of Christian love." The handicapped and suffering, he said, are the object of "the Lord's special predilection."

"Yours is a very precious work," he told them in English, "and even though obstacles sometimes seem insurmountable, you should not be discouraged. Your reward will be the sincere and eternal gratitude of those to whom you have lent a helping hand."

"You value the treasure of vision, and you are making efforts to compensate its loss among your brothers. Indeed, this is one of the highest forms of Christian love. The blind, lame, disfigured and sick were the special object of Our Lord's affection. We offer you Christ as the model for your work on behalf of the blind and deaf. You cannot cure them but you can help compensate by making the blind feel like members of society; you help them become useful members of a community and sharers in the love of men."



Bishop Sheen's tour of parishes to confer the sacrament of Confirmation has already taken him to parishes of widely differing sizes — from such larger parishes as St. Mary's, Auburn, to quiet, little St. Thomas in Red Creek. Father Elmer W. Heindel,

pastor, sent the Courier this picture with the comment, "This should be newsworthy. Here is probably the smallest class Bishop Sheen will confirm this spring." The class totals 24. Any challengers to this claim? (Photo by George E. Chatfield, Wolcott)

Father Curran Pledges 'Catholic Scholarship'

(Continued from Page 1)

After Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle of Washington told a cheering throng that Father Curran's contract would be renewed, the priest told his supporters, "This has not been a revolt against authority. All recognize the role and need of authority in the Church. This has not been primarily a theological debate. The issue has been clear and simple — a contract was not renewed without charge or a hearing despite the unanimous recommendation of the faculty of the School of Theology and of the Academic Senate of the University."

"Responsibility must continue to characterize our efforts and action," he continued. "The implication of the present decision, like the issue itself, involves more than one man. We have been working together for the betterment of our University and of Catholic scholarship. To stop our efforts now would be irresponsible."

"Today we have been given, today we have won not an ultimate victory," he said, "but an opportunity. All of us, faculty and students alike, have been given a mandate and a charge — to continue our efforts in behalf of our University, in behalf of theological investigation

and in behalf of Catholic scholarship in America. Today must mark a beginning and not an end. Let us pledge ourselves to that," he concluded.

Those who consider Snoopy of cartoon fame as an American version of Francis Thompson's "The Little Dog" wonder if perhaps the little dog's comment may be prophetic for Father Curran now — "You don't know it, but your troubles are just beginning."

One of the most likely "troubles" he will have to face will be a mounting avalanche of requests to speak to clergy and lay groups throughout the country, to burden his already heavily booked schedule.

On the immediate horizon is a talk listed for Saturday, May 6, at the Institute for Continuing Education in Detroit which will draw an audience from throughout the entire state of Michigan. Also listed as a speaker at the Institute is Archbishop John Dearden of Detroit.

Father Curran, formerly a faculty member at St. Bernard's Seminary, expects to be home in Rochester for a vacation this summer. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. John F. Curran of Rocket St. in St. Ambrose parish.

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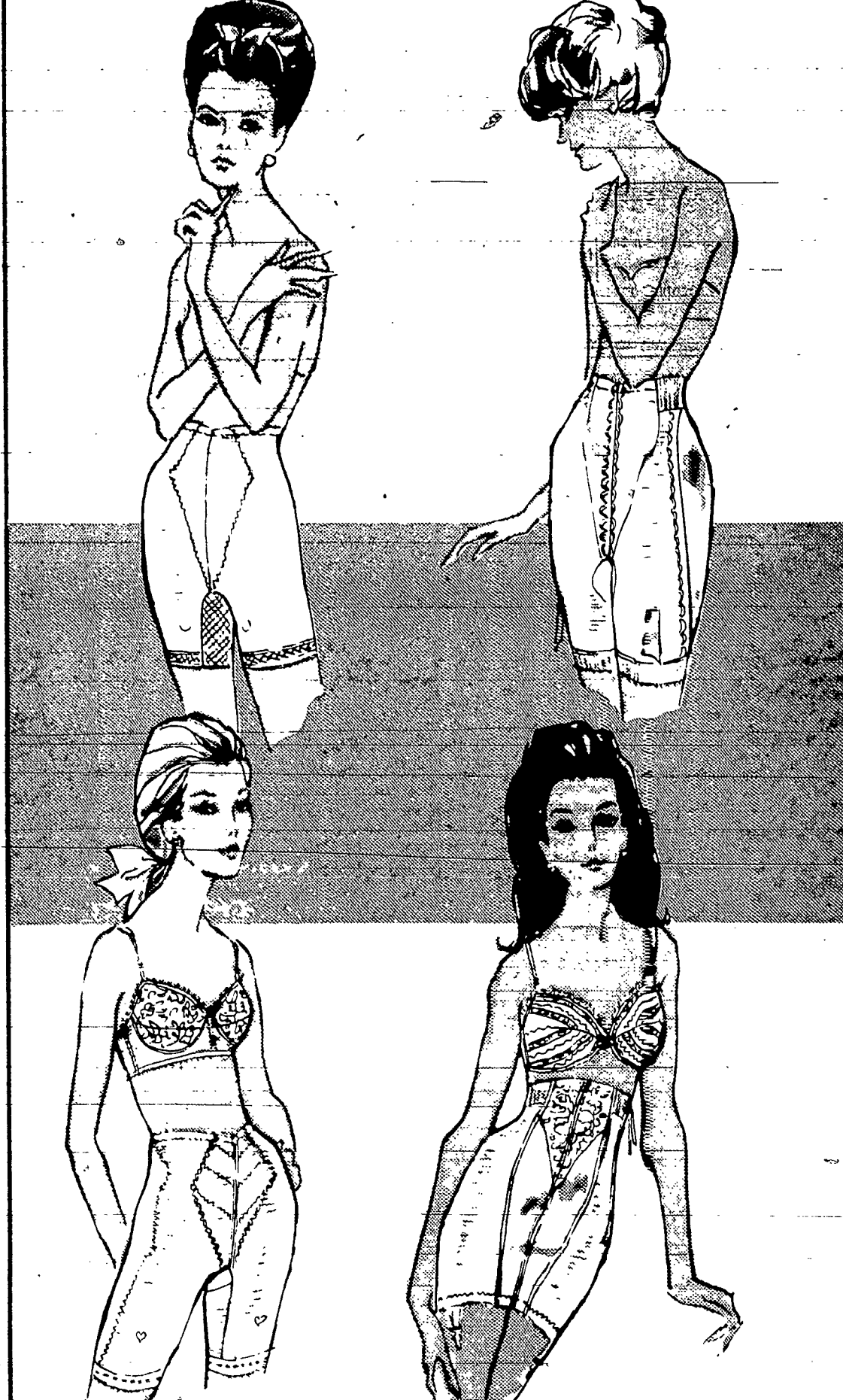
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33 Years a M

Millis, Mass. — (RNS) — Father Moreau, O.P., who for 33 years in the Congo and escaped his workers there, celebrated his priest at a ceremony in the African Sisters of Bethany, Millis, Mass. Moreau was ordained in 1915. Joseph Cardinal Mercier, I career the Dominican priest U.S. for the construction of Seminary in Nicaragua. The clude Bishop James Ball of Congolesse priests.

Priests for Tomorrow



How Free

By FATHER Diocesan

Just as parents of every age try to give their children the best possible start in life, so the seminaries must make the same decisions relative to aspirants to the priesthood. Recently seminaries have given substantially more freedom to students than in the past.

As a result many people have become very disturbed and wonder what will become of seminaries if the young men themselves were to make judgment on the basis of headlines which proclaim the irrational behavior of some "free" young people, the disturbance is easy to understand. But what about all those who have used their freedom wisely?

The advantages of freedom at the earliest possible stage of life are fairly obvious. Freedom to make rational choices is the principal mark of humanness. We are human precisely in proportion as we choose the right courses of action. It follows that the earlier this is possible for a human being the better. Then, too, each individual has a certain potential, greater or less, for initiative and creativity. Without freedom these cannot develop, and as a matter of fact, tend to atrophy.

In the past, personal freedoms have been restricted drastically in seminaries for several reasons. The first is the obvious one that if a person is restricted in the exercise of his choices, he is not free. The second reason was a much more valid one. All human beings labor under the effects of original sin, and restriction of freedom was a way to curb self-will and submerge rebellious animal instincts. Certainly there was some substantial validity to this position. But the question immediately comes to mind — would not the advantages of such restriction be outweighed by the advantages of a carefully cultivated freedom?

Today we think the answer very definitely is "Yes."

The proper exercise of freedom, the freedom of the sons of God, is the choice of God's will, freely made, out of love for him (there is no true love without the freedom). There are three requirements for the proper exercise: an informed conscience, a disciplined nature, and motivation.

For the Christian, the latter must be supplied by faith, a living dynamic faith in Jesus Christ. From him comes man's hope for a full life with the vision of immortality. In him is love which Paul says we must make the root and foundation of our lives.

The informed conscience can come only from years of learning from many sources, experience included, so that one eventually comes to make relatively objective practical judgments as to what is and is not the will of God. Educators in home, school and Church have their work cut out for them in