

## Vitality in Variety

The Hague—(RNS)—Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, Primate of Holland, emphasized that the many manifestations of the Roman Catholic faith around the world dramatically demonstrate the Church's unity and vitality.

The mystery of the Church, said the Archbishop of Utrecht, "reveals itself in the many local expressions which do not in any way harm the unity of the Church."

"On the contrary, they combine to express the vitality of the Church itself," he added.

Cardinal Alfrink, noted for his liberal views at Vatican II, presided at a Symposium of European Bishops in Noordwykerhout, near here, to consider

### Methodists Invited

London—(NC)—British Methodists have been asked to take part in a joint national one-day conference with Catholics in London next December to discuss matters of mutual concern.

The invitation was made by Cardinal John Heenan, leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Cardinal Heenan suggested that each church should send 150 representatives to the meeting in Westminster cathedral's adjoining public hall. All 300 would also be the cardinal's luncheon guests.

problems arising from Church renewal and reform.

Present for the four-day sessions were more than 80 bishops and archbishops from Eastern and Western Europe. Delegates were to discuss such specific questions as authority and obedience in the Church, the autonomy of bishops, senates of priests and pastoral councils.

Cardinal Alfrink, who spoke on the relationships between the Vatican and the Catholic Church in each individual country, noted that Vatican II declared that the "local Church was the revelation on the local level of the one Church of Christ."

"There is no doubt," he continued, "that Vatican II came out on the side of multiplicity, but in the framework and the safeguards of the unity of the faith and some common structures."

"The Council was aware what tensions this pluralism could give rise to, but the knowledge that multiplicity would give new life to the Church overcame these hesitations and the doubts that these would cause."

Cardinal Alfrink went on to speak of the new responsibilities facing bishops as a result of the Vatican Council which "give rise to more pastoral demands."

He concluded his talk by stressing that the basis of the European symposium "was not a separatist tendency, but rather a desire for unity."

The cardinal indicated that


the meeting had the approval of Pope Paul VI who was sending his personal theologian, Msgr. Carlo Colombo, to attend some sessions.

### Apostolate in Prisons

Buenos Aires—(RNS)—A three-day institute on the Catholic Church's spiritual ministry to prisoners was launched here by Antonio Cardinal Caggiano, Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

Devoted to problems involved in providing spiritual and material welfare to inmates, the institute was attended by prison chaplains and correctional and government officials.

In a message to the institute, Pope Paul emphasized the importance of giving spiritual aid to those in prison and of providing rehabilitation aid upon their release.



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**HE GETS AROUND.** Monsignor William M. Roche, who heads the Rochester diocesan school system, chats with Florida's governor, Claude Kirk, center and John E. Champion, president of Florida State University. Father Roche participated in the Governor's Conference for Teachers this Spring. The Rochester educator, an articulate spokesman for religious education, spends a fair amount of his time on the conference circuit. See accompanying story for some of his views.

### His Thesis:

## Catholic Schools' Future Depends on the Laity

If Catholic lay people don't take a larger role in the Catholic school picture, it won't be because Monsignor William M. Roche hasn't pushed for it.

Getting the laity involved at every level of Catholic education is almost a crusade with the personable head of the Catholic school system in this diocese.

In recent speeches, interviews and magazine articles, the Catholic school superintendent has drummed home a basic theme:

The future of Catholic education is in the hands of Catholic lay people.

In the past few years, Monsignor Roche has become one of the more articulate spokesmen for American Catholic education.

He spells out his basic message in crisp phrases that leave no doubt as to his meaning.

Regarding the need for Catholic parents to have a greater voice in the direction of Catholic education, he wrote recently in the *Catholic School Journal* (March 1967):

"If in the years ahead, Catholic education is lost because of the intolerable burden of private support, it will be in large measure because the parent—the Catholic educator—was not involved in decision making."

He would like to see every parish school develop a school board, the parishes in an area forming an area school board, and the area boards then represented on a diocesan school board.

This "grass roots" movement would provide a channel through which a bishop could be apprised of the views of his people regarding Catholic education, he feels.

**Lay Teachers' Role Grows**  
He sees no problem in lay teachers taking a more commanding role in the ranks of Catholic teachers in the years ahead.

In an article written for *America* magazine (March 19, 1967), Monsignor Roche stated flatly:

"It is not essential to the philosophy of Catholic education to have a sister in each classroom."

"It is certainly not essential," he said, for all school principals or college administrators to be religious personnel.

**Financing The Schools**  
He disagrees politely with those who feel that Catholics have come to the end of their financial rope in supporting their schools.

He does admit that the traditional Sunday collection is not going to be the answer to school support. He told the Catholic Educational Congress, held at Nazareth College this May, that Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester "can afford to maintain Catholic schools," but with some new approaches to financing.

Assuming that even one half of the Catholics on the diocesan census were supporting their church, he stated the average Sunday offering in 1966 came to about \$1.20 weekly per person.

"I will agree," he noted dryly, "that this is not adequate for the maintenance of a quality school system."

Nonetheless, he pointed out, it was mainly with this income that not only the grade schools of the diocese, but also the churches, convents, rectories

and catechetical centers were kept in operation last year.

The Rochester Catholic school head does not feel however that Catholic students should be barred from public support because they attend a church-related school.

He pointed out to an Education Committee hearing of the State Constitutional Convention last month that Catholic schools did far more than teach religion—they also meet the state's general educational requirements.

He asserted that this public service—providing a competent education in non-religious subjects—should be recognized for what it is, a boon to education in general.

Ultimately, he concluded, the people of the state will have to decide whether they want to help students in religious schools in their secular subjects, or risk forcing religious schools out of business and assume the burden for almost one million more students in New York State.

It is economically more feasible, for New York taxpayers, he contended, "to support the non-public schools for their non-religious teaching" than to rigidly withhold all support on the basis of a Church-State standard that he termed "archaic."

Monsignor Roche's remarks were directed towards the elimination of the so-called Blaine Amendment in the state constitution, the proviso which bans

tax funds from helping church-related schools.

**Open To New Ideas**  
One of the characteristics of the Rochester school administrator is his openness to new ideas. Like Pope Pius X, he has such regard for traditions that he does not hesitate to suggest new ones.

A favorite idea espoused by Monsignor Roche has just become a reality in this diocese—the post of a Vicar for Religious Education.

In a major address to the National Catholic Education Association in Atlantic City last March, he outlined the value of such a position.

A Vicar of Religious Education, he pointed out, could help marshal all the various agencies which contribute to "any form of education under church auspices" in a diocese.

The office of Religious Education, he predicted, would become a valuable resource center, not only for Catholic elementary and secondary schools,

but also for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) program, the Newman Apostolate, etc.

(Bishop Sheen has recently created such a post for the Diocese of Rochester. Father Albert J. Shamon, pastor of St. Patrick's in Victor, has been appointed to the job, is currently evaluating the diocesan facilities which comprise Catholic education in a broad sense.)

**He's Strong For Dialog**  
Monsignor Roche is a great believer in dialog, in getting all those interested in a common problem to sit down together and strive for a solution.

He advocates a national committee of religious superiors whose groups are involved in education and representative of the American Catholic bishops. He would like to see them work out some guidelines to clarify the "private objectives of religious communities and their diocesan responsibilities."

On the local level, Monsignor Roche makes it a point to meet regularly with the Rochester public schools superintendent, Herman R. Goldberg, to discuss mutual problems.

Monsignor Roche then, is a professional educator who faces up to a multitude of problems, admits he doesn't have all the answers, but asks the right questions and is not afraid of bold new solutions.

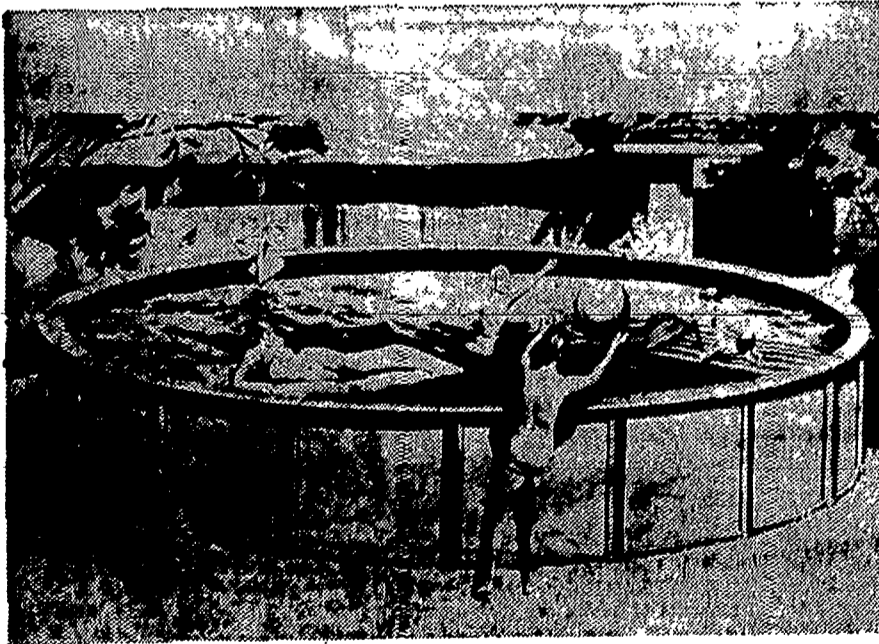
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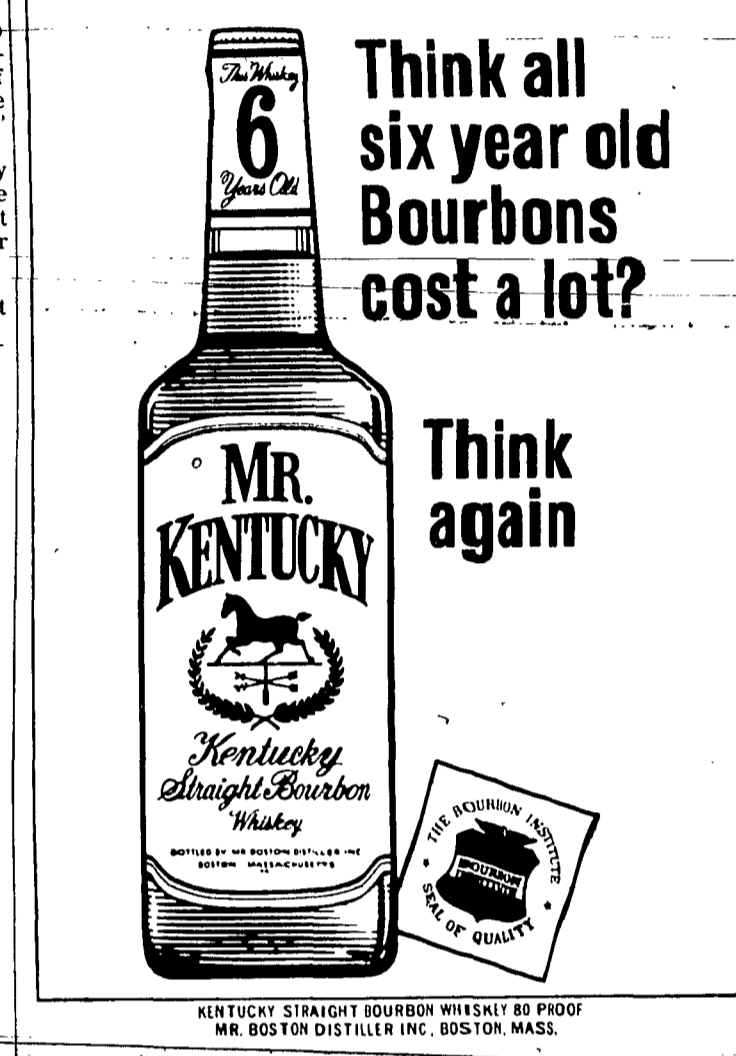
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