

Teachers Told Stress 'Open Minded' Conscience

Vatican City — (RNS) — A papal message has been sent to the World Union of Catholic Teachers, meeting in Berlin, which urges "those responsible for the generations of tomorrow to free themselves from every formalism in the formation of conscience."

The message was transmitted by Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, Vatican Secretary of State, to the World Union's sixth international conference, which took place in Berlin.

The Pope told the teachers to educate children "to a sense of values, to a search for truth and for real contact with their neighbor, to a respect for their own liberty and a strong feeling of the dignity of every human being."

The Pope said that this sort of teaching presupposes an open-minded view of the world and of the Church, based on deep faith and perfect obedience to Church authority.

New-Type Nuns' Order in Texas

Austin, Texas—(NC)—A new kind of nun is functioning among the people of the Austin diocese after more than six years of groundwork and preparation.

The new Sisters belong to the diocese. They work only to serve the many needs of the See and are subject to Austin's Bishop Louis J. Reicher.

Looked upon as the counterpart of diocesan priests, the new Sisters have no mother-house, rigid rules or traditions stemming from any religious order.

They live in a home among the poor on Austin's east side, wear contemporary garb and do not take the vow of poverty but live on a stipend from the diocese.

The contemporary tone of the Sisterhood—which is currently engaged chiefly in broad based social work—is exemplified by a stress on personal development of skills, interest and abilities in virtually any field. The apostolate of the new nuns is as diversified as the needs of the diocese and they may tackle any task to which the bishop assigns them—just as he would his priests.

The creation of this new concept of religious life for women is the outgrowth of years of planning and serious consideration by the Sisters, the bishop and his advisors.

"I had worked with the Sister formation program in Austin," Sister Mary Agnes, Zinni related, "and had become aware of this special need for a type of religious woman who is committed to the diocese rather than to a particular community."

At that time, Bishop Reicher extended an invitation to Sister Mary Agnes and to Father Victor Goertz, then secretary to the bishop, to establish a new diocesan Sisterhood.

Among the early decisions of the formation faculty was one concerning the garb. The faculty chose contemporary clothing—looking much like that of an airline stewardess—for the new Sisters.

'Reverence For Life'

Baltimore — (RNS) — Three Catholic bishops have called for maintenance of "the principle of reverence for life" in a statement issued here on a proposed revision of Maryland's abortion law.

Hearings on a proposed bill to liberalize the abortion statute are underway in Annapolis.

In their statement Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore; Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington; and Bishop Michael W. Hyle of Wilmington, held that the principle of reverence for life could lead "logically and inexorably" to such "enormities" as Dachau and Auschwitz.

All three Catholic Sees have jurisdiction over areas of Maryland.

The actual formation program of the Sisters is still "evolving," according to both Sister Agnes and Father Goertz. At present plans are to divide the training program into three parts: academic, personal development and apostolic work.

"Each candidate," declared Sister Agnes, "will be prepared for whatever field she will be going into—for whatever work she is best qualified." Courses will be taken at Maryhill, the new women's colleges on the St. Edward's University campus, at the University of Texas or other institutions as the particular needs of the individual require.

The area of personal growth, she related, will develop the new Sister as a Christian woman committed to her diocese. Included in the training will be a course in the history of the diocese and a study of present apostolic programs functioning in the See.

When the Sisters began to function early this year they had two full-fledged members, both formerly Immaculate Conception Sisters. Miss Elaine Doherty has since joined the group as a candidate and an application has been received from another young woman who plans to enter the diocesan Sisters as soon as she fulfills her "waiting time."

"The needs of the diocese are varied," Sister Agnes observed, "and we are needed in the field of social work because the need there is the greatest. There are no Sisters working in this area directly in the city of Austin."

The Sisters work in cooperation with Catholic Charities and assist the needy through referrals to agencies and government bodies which can help them in their struggles.

Father Jordan said he felt it was "most significant" that the Sisters have no vow of poverty.

"It gives them more flexibility and an opportunity to exercise their personal responsibility as far as handling money and other temporal matters," the diocesan secretary observed.

"We rather think of the role of the new nuns in a broader concept as serving the needs of the Church in a fashion compatible with the particular talents of the individual," Father Goertz stated.

J. T. Murray, Pharmacist

Funeral Mass for James T. Murray, owner of the Murray Pharmacy, 492 Lyell Ave. for more than 50 years and a trustee for many years of Holy Apostles Church, was offered in St. Augustine Church, July 27.

Mr. Murray of 25 Burrows St. died Monday, July 24, 1967.

He was a charter member of Holy Apostles Holy Name Society and a member of the New York Pharmaceutical Association and Rochester Drug Corporation.

Surviving are his wife, Anna K. Murray, a daughter, Mrs. Robert D. Halloran and three grandchildren, Peter, Anne and James T. Halloran, all of Delmar, N. Y.

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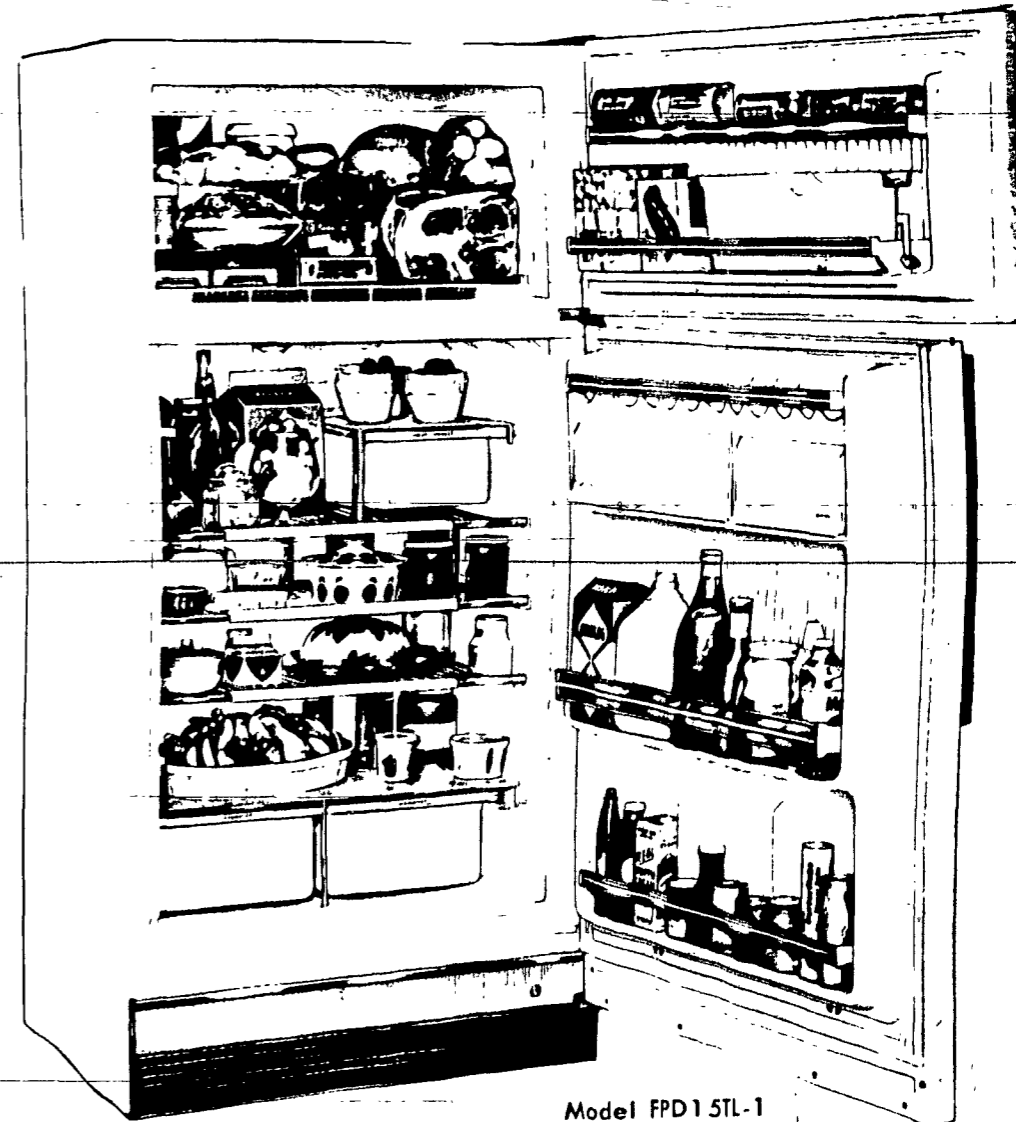
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