

Try New Rites, Lay Unit Asks

Minneapolis — (RNS) — The National Association of Laymen, unofficial Roman Catholic organization, issued a statement here calling for further "creative and responsible experimentation" in the liturgy, using ideas flowing freely from all those participating in the "worshiping community."

Such experiments should be "initiated within the local church" in order "to effect a dynamic human experience," the statement said.

It also called for more variety in the liturgy. The need for experimentation, it said, "applies not only to the Eucharist but also to the other sacraments. In this way, we shall arrive at adaptations of the liturgy meaningful to such groups as children, young adults, special interest groups and those who prefer the traditional liturgy."

The statement was the second in a series of eight being prepared by the lay organization's executive board. Future statements, scheduled for preparation before the October meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, will deal with marriage and the family, diocesan and parish administration, education, communications, ecumenism and parish life.

The liturgy document recognized the possibility of "doctrinal error" in parish-level liturgical experimentation but said that "later evaluation by the bishops will minimize the likelihood" of this "and also provide the universal Church with the positive benefits."

The lay group recommended the formation of more non-

ritorial parishes, like the Community of John XXIII in Oklahoma City, and urged Catholics "to seek out and support parishes which have meaningful liturgical celebrations."

"There is little genuine participation in our worship," it said. "There is insufficient understanding of the true meaning of the liturgy. There is little sense of community experienced in our churches."

It criticized present liturgical practice in the Catholic Church on several points, calling for "rapid and varied changes and adaptations of the liturgy to meet the needs of different segments of a community."

Irish Hold Unity Meet

Dublin — (NC) — Eruemenism in Ireland took another step forward in a two-day seminar at the Benedictines' Glenstal abbey of St. Columba in which representatives of the major religious denominations in this country took part.

Summarizing the mid-July meeting, Glenstal Abbot Augustine O'Sullivan stressed the fact that the principal denomination in the past year had committed themselves to work for closer relations and greater cooperation with other Christian churches. The Glenstal meeting, he pointed out, climaxed such efforts.

Theme of the congress was "Faith and the Sacraments."

Spanish Priest Beat Columbus?

Madrid — (NC) — The claim of Russian geographer Samuel Verzhavsky made in 1962—that an English Carmelite friar preceded Columbus to America, is finding strong support from Spanish Carmelite Father Francisco Rengel.

Father Rengel, writing on the subject for a Madrid daily, said: "English-born Father Nicholas de Lynn, who died in 1390, was a famous theologian, mathematician and astrologer. He left many manuscripts, maps and records describing the lands of the Americas. It is believed he might have served as chaplain in a vessel of Nordic explorers journeying to America."

Red Schools Help Keep Hong Kong Pot Boiling

By GERMAINE SWAIN (NC News Service)

Hong Kong — Nothing the Communists have done in the past four months — raids, demonstrations, strikes or "home-made" mobs — have prevented the Chinese of Hong Kong from engaging in their usual daily activities.

Having failed so far to force the four million people of this British colony to cower in fear, the communists elements are left with two weapons: their schools and press.

There is no indication, however, that the government plans to close the communists' schools and press. It has been learned that it does not even plan regular inspections of the schools by the education department.

The reasons for this appear to be as follows:

— Closing the communist primary and secondary schools — of which around 24 are registered with the department of education as private institutions — would mean spilling into the streets at least 20,000 Maoist indoctrinated children.

— These children would then infect the minds of their playmates with their communist philosophy.

— They could not be easily absorbed into non-communist schools because of their thought patterns, the scarcity of school seats and because, for the most part, their courses of study would also make it difficult for them to integrate academically.

One priest-educator here, when asked by NC News Service for his opinion on this "thinking," commented:

"I would recommend the reverse, from the facts at hand. The communist students would be 'lost' if absorbed into the entire school population. There are about 900,000 children attending around 925 schools — kindergarten, primary, secondary. Deduct the 20,000 and the ratio of communist to non-communist students is roughly 1 to 44. Even allowing for communist leanings among some youngsters in non-communist schools, you have your little leftists licked by spreading them thin."

"Strong measures" to stamp out the "solid perversion" of the minds of the some 20,000 children enrolled in Hong Kong's "communist-operated or leftist-inclined" schools were called for (Aug. 13) in the lead

editorial of the South China Sunday Post-Herald, titled "Our Little Red School Houses."

"If this course was decided on there would be little difficulty in finding sound grounds for doing so. We have had ample demonstration of the kind of 'studying' these youngsters do — not all of them willingly — and of the callous disregard of their future shown by those in charge of these schools."

"These evil manipulators of young minds care nothing for the waste of sorely needed talent, the stunting of intellectual growth or the twisting of developing personalities. Their only concern is to produce mindless automatons who will spout their propagandist drivel on demand, and whose fate is to be cast aside on society's scrap heap when their moment of use has passed."

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