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THE NUNS — God bless them! — teach hundreds of thousands of children nationwide. The 103,832 teaching Sisters are still the backbone of the Catholic school system in the U.S. (NC Photo)

Referendum on Blaine: Single Issue or Package?

Albany — What happens now that the Constitutional Convention has voted by almost 3 to 1 to remove the restrictive Blaine amendment from New York's Constitution?

The biggest decision yet to be made is how it will be placed before the people in November.

Some want it as a separate item. Several Republican leaders have expressed this preference.

The convention president, Assembly Speaker Anthony J. Travis is pushing for a single Constitutional presentation.

Hard-core opponents to any change in Blaine's 73-year-old restrictions to aid in any form to children attending non-public schools will "work time lessly to defeat any Constitution that does not retain Blaine.

What will be presented to the voters of New York as the new Constitution is, of course, still undecided. The work of revision is the work of the convention.

Whatever changes are offered, there are two options available for presenting these changes:

1. Propose an entirely new, rewritten Constitution incorporating all the changes accepted by the delegates, or

2. Propose amendments to the present Constitution (the present Constitution has not been rewritten since 1894, but it has been amended more than 100 different times) incorporating those changes.

How the changes will be presented to the voters on the ballot is an entirely different question.

Whether or not it is an entirely new document or changes in the present document, the question of how to present it basically has two options also.

The options are: 1-The new constitution or changes to the old) in one place on the ballot—that is, "Do you accept these changes?" — or 2-The new Constitution (or changes to the old) in several places on the ballot—that is making a separate question out of some issues such as suffrage, Blaine, the Judiciary, etc.

There is a committee charged with this responsibility: the Committee on Presentation. The

committee will not meet until several of the changes have been received in final form.

There are nine spaces available on the voting machines where the Constitutional or Referendum material can be placed for voter approval. But since three of these spaces are already spoken for, the work of the Convention is limited to presentation in only six places on the ballot.

The three spaces already taken are: 1-The Governor's \$2.5 billion transportation bond issue; 2-An amendment to the present Constitution relating to six remaining spaces on the 3-An amendment relating to the bond limit of public corporations concerning manufacturing plant construction loans.

Whether one or all of the

six remaining spaces on the ballot is used depends on what the Committee on Presentation suggests and the delegates accept.

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Patriarchs Study Topic

Rome — (RNS) — "The Eastern Patriarchs in the First Millennium" will be the overall topic of an international theological congress to be held here Dec. 27-30.

Among the subjects to be

treated in various papers will be: Historical Factors in the Origin of the Patriarchates and of the Catholic Administrative Structure; Relations Among the Eastern Patriarchates and Relations Between the Byzantine Patriarchate and Rome.



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Spain Will Keep Old Catechism For Now

Madrid — (NC) — The National Secretariat of Catechesis, which prepares teaching material for religion classes in public and private schools in Spain, has announced that the present catechism will be in use for one more year.

There were expectations that a revised version, in preparation for several months, would be introduced now.

The present edition follows the traditional method of questions and answers. It has been

criticized not only for its outmoded approach in the teaching of religion, but also for the points made obsolete by the Second Vatican Council.

"We are going ahead with the new version, but the scope of the work calls for more time,"

the secretariat said. It added that new religion programs are also being prepared for primary and secondary schools, as well as a new guide for religion teachers.

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