

## School Financing At Crisis Point

Washington — (RNS) — The financing of education in the U.S. Roman Catholic Church can be described as "philanthropy of the poor," a "summit meeting" on the future of Catholic education here was told.

Holy Cross Father Ernest Bartell, assistant professor of economics at the University of Notre Dame, strongly urged the Church to drop the "laissez-faire individualism" in the financing of its schools and install in its place "coordinated planning at all relevant levels of decision-making."

Speaking to the Washington Symposium on Catholic Education sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association, Father Bartell said:

"The principal sources of revenue upon which the Church and her schools have depended . . . take a larger share of relatively low incomes than they do of high incomes."

He cited, as examples, those fund-raising methods directed to small contributions through "pay-while-you-play" bazaars, dinners, and the like.

"Seldom is any attempt made to apply a progressive rate of the kind that has become basic to secular public finance through the graduated income tax," he said, and added:

"The same is true of tithing, which simply asks the same

percentage from low incomes as from high incomes."

Endowments from estates and legacies, currently in wide use in higher education, was suggested by Father Bartell as one means of raising funds. He maintained that the voluntary nature of Church giving makes it difficult to find fund-raising techniques both equitable and effective.

The Notre Dame economist, who has done extensive research on financing elementary and secondary Catholic education, said the economy of the Church resembles an early-stage, free-enterprise system composed of more than 150 financially independent dioceses which are in turn divided further into relatively independent parishes.

One of the basic questions, said Father Bartell, is whether "the support of a given school is to be the responsibility of the users of the school, according to the benefits received principles of public finance, or is to be drawn from a larger base, such as the parish or diocese, according to some measure of the ability to pay."

Father Bartell stressed that an answer must be found to the question because the financing of Catholic schools in the U.S. — now put at some \$3 billion annually — might triple in the next decade.

## Schism Horror Dogs Renewal

St. Paul — (RNS) — Renewal within the Roman Catholic Church is much more widespread than most non-Catholic Christians believe, according to a Minnesota Protestant layman who served as observer-consultant at the recent World Congress of the Lay Apostolate in Rome.

At the same time, Charles Lutz said, he found "a great horror of schism" hanging over the Catholic Church.

He said the question most asked by Catholics is: How do we move forward without splitting the Church?

Mr. Lutz, who is director for the Center for Urban Encounter here, was North American representative of the Lutheran World Federation at the congress.

In a report of his impressions, Mr. Lutz said he found that ecumenical dialogue "comes most naturally when you are discussing not church unity but the questions of human existence in today's world. Or when you come together to work at a common task."

He said the Congress in Rome raised the question whether Protestant and Orthodox Churches realize they also need

renewal. He questioned whether Protestants "think we've arrived because we had our Reformation 450 years ago."

If the laymen in Rome were representatives, Mr. Lutz reported, most Catholic laity would like to find a way through the barrier of intercommunion, want a relaxation of their Church's regulations on marriage with non-Catholics, and tend to see the old confessional barriers between denominations as less significant than conflicting viewpoints within each denomination.

He said unity among Christians and "maturing of the laity" were two dominant concerns of the Congress in the area of church renewal.

The two leading issues in discussions of the needs of the contemporary world, Mr. Lutz said, were birth control and the growing gap between the rich and poor nations.

A majority of the Catholic delegates "were insistent that the decision about methods in family planning should be in the hands of the couple," Mr. Lutz said.

## Harvest Supper for Horseheads Parish

A harvest buffet supper will be served on Tuesday evening, Nov. 14 from 5 until 7 in the auditorium of St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads.

This is a project of the Altar and Rosary Society and is being directed by Mrs. James Kildea Jr. and Mrs. John Kopko, co-chairmen.

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