

End Bias In Textbooks

Vienna — (RNS) — Complete revision of all Catholic religious textbooks has been advocated by leading Austrian theologians.

The recommendation was made by the Commission for the Cooperation of Christians and Jews.

Religion is a compulsory subject in all Austrian schools until age 14 when the student may elect to continue instruction.

All Atheist

United Nations — (RNS) — Albania now officially claims to have become the "first atheist state in the world."

Such a claim was voiced in the Albanian literary monthly, Nendori, made available here.

Some observers here saw counterpart to the "cultural revolution" in China.

TV Celibacy Program Said One Sided

Vienna — (RNS) — Austria's Roman Catholic bishops have attacked a TV program on priestly celibacy presented by the government-owned Austrian Broadcasting Company.

A controversy is raging here.

Lutherans Unity Urged

Chicago — (RNS) — Dr. Jerold C. Brauer, dean of the Divinity School at the University of Chicago, suggested here that the three major Lutheran bodies in North America unite.

The official news organ of Vienna's archdiocese, Kathpress, called on Austrian bishops and rectors of Catholic seminaries to sample their opinions of the program.

Bishop Stefan Laszlo of Burgenland, director of Austrian Catholic Radio and Television Conference and consultant to the government broadcasting station, called the performance "one-sided and completely biased."

His appeal for unity was directed to the Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

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Noted Prelate To Serve Lepers

Montreal — (RNS) — Paul-Emile Cardinal Legier, in affirming his resignation as Archbishop of Montreal, said he will leave for Africa in mid-December to perform missionary work among lepers.

He told a press conference that there were 200,000 lepers in the world and I wish to dedicate the few years allotted me to giving spiritual and material assistance to them.

Cardinal Legier is 63 years old, a comparatively young age for a cardinal.

In June 1966, he was unable to attend one of the dedications ceremonies during construction of the Christian Pavilion at Expo 67.

Archbishop Iakovos, head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, who spoke at the June ceremony, sent a telegram to Cardinal Legier, saying he prayed "that our Lord may restore your health and grant you strength so that you may continue your outstanding ecumenical ministry to the glory of God."

Cardinal Legier told newsmen that missionary work among the lepers has been uppermost in his mind for many years, and noted that he had toured 10 African nations in December 1963-January 1964.

He did not specify the exact

locale of his African mission, but he did say he hoped to build a leprosarium.

Cardinal Legier, speaking alternately in French and English, said he had consulted "prudent persons" and outlined his thoughts to Pope Paul VI before finally deciding to resign his post as head of one of the most important archdioceses in North America.

"On the last day of the Bishops' Synod (in Rome), the Holy Father accepted my resignation and acceded to my request. My decision, therefore, has been approved by authority and taken in a spirit of obedience."

The cardinal was asked why he was going to Africa in the light of growing social and economic hardships in his own area.

"We have the means necessary to give the poor the necessities of life," he said. "But there are 200 million Africans whose annual earning is only \$250."

He noted that Africans were "20 years ahead of the rest of the Roman Catholic world with their fervor, their understanding and devotion."

He expressed surprise at learning there were 20 million lepers in the world. "This report of suffering and poverty convinced me that something must be done to assist these unfortunate," he said.

Cardinal Legier made an immense impression at the Vatican Council and the subsequent Bishops' Synod as a liberal who spoke his mind on birth control, liberty of conscience, marital

interests in lepers combines long-standing interests in mission countries and in work for the poor which have marked his entire ecclesiastical career.

From 1933 to 1939, he was stationed in Japan as a member of the Sulpicians, a missionary order traditionally associated with missionary work.

He asked: "Why did the program director not have the courage to present priests who might give rebuttal to the advocates of a married priesthood?"



CARDINAL LEGIER

love and other aspects dealing directly with the individual. He is best known in the overwhelmingly Catholic province as a reformer.

For nearly three centuries, the Catholic Church here has virtually dictated the workings of its faithful in every field—educational, social, political and economic.

Priests and bishops often told parishioners how to vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections. The public school system in Quebec is divided along religious lines, with 80 per cent of the student population in these schools Catholic.

Cardinal Legier, arriving at the scene in the early 1950's, immediately undertook the task to "secularize" many of the Church's involvements, to the extent that he was harshly criticized by conservative Catholics "as selling out to the Protestants."

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Universal Trial Confronts Church

(Continued from Page 1A)

Archbishop Dearden, who was spokesman for the U.S. bishops on the subject of mixed marriage, said he strongly favored the retention of the current form of Catholic marriage as a requirement for validity.

Many bishops from other countries did not share this stand, it was reported. The U.S. bishops presented a strong statement in support of their position, but allowing individual bishops some latitude on granting dispensations according to the norms to be laid down by national conferences of bishops. This view won approval.

Cardinal Lawrence Shehan of Baltimore, spokesman for the U.S. bishops in the matter of seminaries, reported that the official Synod report on this subject presented by Cardinal Gabriel Garrone, pro-prefect of the Congregation for Seminaries and Universities, was very acceptable to the American prelates.

Cardinal Kroll said the prelates representing the U.S. did their best to speak on all questions according to the mind of the U.S. bishops as expressed in the letters of instruction to the delegates of the synod. The usual mode of action, he added, was to hear the report given on a question, meet as the U.S. delegation, analyze the delegation's response to the report, and then formulate the response.

Cardinal Kroll told the meeting that the U.S. delegation's proposals on canon law revision called for three levels in the new code. These he said were:

1. A constitution giving the basic norms of universal law for all the Church which would be immutable.

2. Common or general law, which would be quasi-immutable, applicable to all churches, rites and groups.

3. Specific laws for particular churches, rites, groups, religious orders, etc.

Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh told the meeting that the U.S. bishops at the Synod felt that the bishops, now and in the future, should stress the teaching office of the bishops. He defended the Synod's ruling against the presence of periti (experts) at its sessions. There was absolute unanimity and agreement among the synodal fathers regarding doctrinal statements they issued, he said.

Bishop Wright denied that there was a doctrinal split of progressive and conservative bishops. He asked that theologians who in the future are chosen for national and international doctrinal commissions be chosen by the national conference of bishops and not by universities.

Both Archbishop Dearden and Bishop Wright emphasized that the Synod had given new strength on many levels to national conferences of bishops.

Archbishop Dearden asked the bishops to nominate American theologians to serve on the international theological institute recommended to the Pope by the Synod.

Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken reported to the U.S. bishops about the World Congress of the Laity which met in Rome also during October.

He paid particular tribute to papers presented by Barbara Ward, world famous British economist, and American astronomer James McDivitt. He spoke with great pride of the American delegates to the assembly. He reported that rules of the congress required that a given petition have the endorsement of five national delegations before it could reach the floor for a vote. This rule, he added, prevented a proposed resolution condemning American participation in the Vietnam war from reaching the floor.

Among other topics the U.S. bishops were expected to cover are distribution of clergy, including a plan to secure volunteer seminarians for areas particularly in need of priests, the missions, with particular attention to equitable distribution of funds, and including guidelines for lay participation in mission activities; statements on doctrine, liturgy, canonical affairs, the role of deacons, and a catechetical source book.

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Reforms Asked In Greek Faith

Athens — (RNS) — Sweeping reforms in the Orthodox Church of Greece, to be implemented over a ten-year period, have been proposed by Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece in a memorandum submitted to the Holy Synod for study and action.

The wide-ranging changes will affect administration, elections of bishops, diocesan boundaries, finances, liturgical services and preaching, religious art, military chaplaincy, and monasteries.

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Mini-M

Cape Town, South Africa (NC) — A recent demonstration in the Vatican dubbed "mini-Mass" by a critic was fended here by a South African prelate, who said he was founded moved and impressed by it.

Referring to the Mass celebrated in the Sistine Chapel connection with the world of Bishops in October, C. M. Hurley of Dublin said it was "unfortunate" that the term had been applied and widely repeated.

"Some disgruntled bishop here was justified, but what was justified I leave to readers to judge," the bishop wrote to the South Cross, the national Catholic weekly for South Africa, generally approving of what he had observed at Mass.

"The alleged mini-Mass celebrated in the Sistine"

Deacon

By STEVE LANDRE

Dallas — (NC) — The many Home Missioners taken on a big job — doing the 700 counties which up "no priest land, U.S.A." but their youthful superior said he envisions more on the way in the form of ordained deacons.

Father Robert C. Bersch, Genmar's third superior, said married deacons are one of the answers to the "no priest land's" 40,000 citizens.

Pope Paul last June 21 issued a document re-establishing the permanent diaconate, including a provision for ordination to the diaconate married men over the age

In an interview here, Bersch expressed his fervor concerning the need for ordained deacons, particularly home mission field.

He said he was delighted with the document. "It is short," he added, "yet it covers the essentials, and more significant, it allowed for a married deacon to support his family by an occupation that is compatible with the ministry."

"My first reaction," he said, "was 'let's try it somewhere in the home mission field...' until we try it we can't pronounce any kind of judgment or evaluate its effectiveness."

Father Bersch, a veteran of many years in the home missions, said his society has covered many missionary in the home missions to acquire a priest.

"What I'm thinking of is priest circuit-riding over an eight-county area. If of the local parishes would be a resident deacon as administrator would stay in the community there, earn his living raise his family there; the official Catholic church in that town," he said.

Father Bersch added: "A priest would come in to Mass, to administer the sacraments of Penance and tal

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