

The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Journal

Diocesan Consensus
Sought on Schools:
see Page 5

New Report
on College Fund
Drive—Page 6

79th Year

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No Place to Go

Mekong Delta — (RNS) — Two South Vietnamese children with no place to go. They were left behind by parents when South Vietnamese Rangers approached. Obeying the ranger they timidly emerge from the tall grass.



American Bishops Meet

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — More than 200 members of the U.S. hierarchy gathered last week in Washington, D.C., for the semi-annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, Conference

president who presided at the sessions is shown with three U.S. cardinals. From left are: James Francis Cardinal McIntyre of Los Angeles, John Cardinal Cody of Chicago, Archbishop Dearden, and Lawrence Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore.

Bishops Tackle Crucial Issues of Today

Face War, Poverty, School Crises

Priest 1-A In Draft

A priest of the Rochester Diocese, reclassified 1-A in the draft after he turned in his draft card, has insisted that he was not "defying lawful authority."

Father David Connor said that his action was aimed at bringing about a test case on what he feels are inequities in the draft program. To bring this into courts, "where it can be decided in a legitimate manner," he and 15 Cornell students turned in their draft cards on Oct. 16 as part of a national anti-war protest.

The 30-year old priest is associate Catholic Chaplain for Cornell University's United Religious Work. Ordained in 1964, he served two years as assistant pastor of St. James Church in Rochester, was assigned to Cornell in October, 1965.

The particular failure in the present draft regulations that Father Connor mentioned is the lack of provision for "selective conscientious Objectors. This means men who are objecting to a particular war, in this case the United States fight in Vietnam. As it stands now, he pointed out, such men have no choice now but "jail or flight to Canada."

"I greatly love and admire our young men who are in Vietnam," he told *The Courier-Journal* this week, "but precisely because they're being asked to fight a war which I believe is fruitless, I must protest against the whole program which takes them there."

Father Connor's draft board in Genesee reclassified him "1-A delinquent," in accord with current Selective Service procedures directing this in the case of anyone not having his draft card in his possession.

The priest has 30 days to appear before his draft board for possible induction or to appeal his reclassification. He is conferring with an attorney but stated that as yet he has not

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Bishops' Meeting: Highlights

Key stands taken by the American Catholic Bishops in their fall meeting at Washington, D.C. last week were these:

The more than 200 bishops:

URGED the U.S. government to try harder for a negotiated peace in the Vietnam war. They made it clear, however, that they were not pressing for "peace at any price," that real peace must include justice and freedom for the people involved;

PRESSED Congress for strong legislation to back the War on Poverty. (The House of Representatives next day passed a \$1.6 billion bill, which must now adjust through a compromise to the Senate's previously passed \$2.25 billion anti-poverty bill);

INSISTED that parochial schools are an "indispensable component" of the Church's commitment to education, pledged to "continue, improve and strengthen" these schools;

BACKED the traditional discipline of priestly celibacy, "unanimously and without reservation."

See page 4 for text of the statement on celibacy.

DISCUSSED the advisability of getting Rome's permission to set up liturgy experimentation centers at three Catholic universities;

DREW UP the rough draft of a collective pastoral letter, to be issued early next year, on "The Nature of the Church," which would be an American adaptation of Vatican II's decree on the Church; and

VOTED a budget of \$9.6 million to carry out the bishop's programs next year. Lion's share, almost \$8.15 million was designated for overseas relief services.

Courier-Journal News Summary

Determined to translate the ideals of Vatican II Council into the realities of American life, the Conference of Catholic Bishops tackled many of the day's toughest problems in their annual fall meeting in Washington, D.C. last week (Nov. 13-17).

These problems included the war in Vietnam, the spectre of poverty in affluent America, the financial crisis facing Catholic schools, liturgical adventuring and clerical celibacy.

None of the bishops claimed to have eliminated these problems during their five day conclave at the Hotel America, but they met them squarely and took decisive stands on all of them.

About the only major issue that the bishops didn't touch was the sensitive one of birth control. They did hear from the episcopal delegates to the recent Synod in Rome, however, that the U.S. bishops there had forwarded a statement to the Pope, expressing their opinion on birth control. They did not reveal (publicly) what their opinion had been.

Perhaps the most publicized statement emerging from the week-long conference was the bishops' strong affirmation of clerical celibacy for Catholic priests. "With a single voice," the American prelates backed the Vatican II Council's stand on celibacy, recently restated

by Pope Paul VI. Insisting that priestly celibacy has been and will be "of great advantage to the Church," particularly in the United States, the bishops added: "it would be irresponsible on our part to hold out any hope that this discipline would be changed."

The bishops took a strong stand in favor of federal anti-poverty programs, but stressed also the Church's responsibility in initiating positive social programs.

Negotiation Urged

In the area of war and peace, the bishops cited the "repeated efforts" of the U.S. government to negotiate an end to the Vietnam war, but urged "even greater determination and action" toward such negotiations. Referring to their concern, stated in 1966 that the long war might diminish public "moral sensitivity" to the war's evils, they added:

"Time... and the reactions of responsible segments of our society" have indicated that the moral sensitivity of Americans have in fact, intensified.

Noting that the longing for peace has been expressed in extreme reactions "for and against our presence in Vietnam," the bishops pleaded for "a more rational debate" on the Vietnam war question.

The bishops tempered their firm stand in support of "continuing and supporting" Catholic schools, with the acknowl-

edged need to research present endeavors, study available resources and project future plans. They expressed deep appreciation over the support given Catholic schools by the American laity.

They also rapped those who would downgrade the apostolic value of Catholic school teachers. Quoting Vatican II on Christian Education, the bishops stressed that Catholic school teachers are engaged in "a true apostolate," which our times make extremely necessary. They suggested, however, that teachers should not limit themselves to their classrooms, but should be interested in their pupils' homes and neighborhoods, and should be leaders in fighting poverty and injustice.

Liturgy Trials

Showing implicit recognition of widespread reports of "underground" liturgical experimentation, the bishops discussed the advisability of asking the Holy See's approval for authorized liturgical experimentation, probably in three Catholic university settings.

The conference also asked their committee on Pastoral Research and Practices to study the report on an "appropriate" age for children to begin going to confession and to receive Confirmation.

The same committee was also delegated to conduct an in-depth study on the life and ministry of American priests. The Conference reported.

The bishops also discussed the feasibility of using married deacons in America, endorsed plans to consider a detailed program for the permanent diaconate at their next meeting. Several bishops reported that deacons would be valuable in their dioceses.

The prelates also refused to recommend adoption of the English version of the controversial Dutch catechism for use as a religion text. Their objection centered more on its lack of proper ecclesiastical approval, however, than on its doctrinal content, which their statement did not mention. (Dutch Cardinal Bernard Albrink had asked that no imprimatur be given translations of the catechism before requested modi-

fications had been made in the original text.)

The bishops moved to head off a trend among priests to discard their clerical collars for neckties and other lay dress. Their resolution on this called for "respect for the traditional dress for priests" appearing in public in garb "which identifies them as recognizable as members of the clergy."

Pastoral To Come

One fruit of the annual fall meeting was still to come — a lengthy pastoral letter, said to be 20,000 words in length — intended to be an American adaptation of Vatican II's Constitution on the Church. The document, still in the drafting stages, will be issued after the Christmas holidays.

As a "collective pastoral" letter, the document has been described by Detroit's Archbishop John F. Dearden, president of the Conference, as "an exercise in collegial teaching authority," with significant implications.

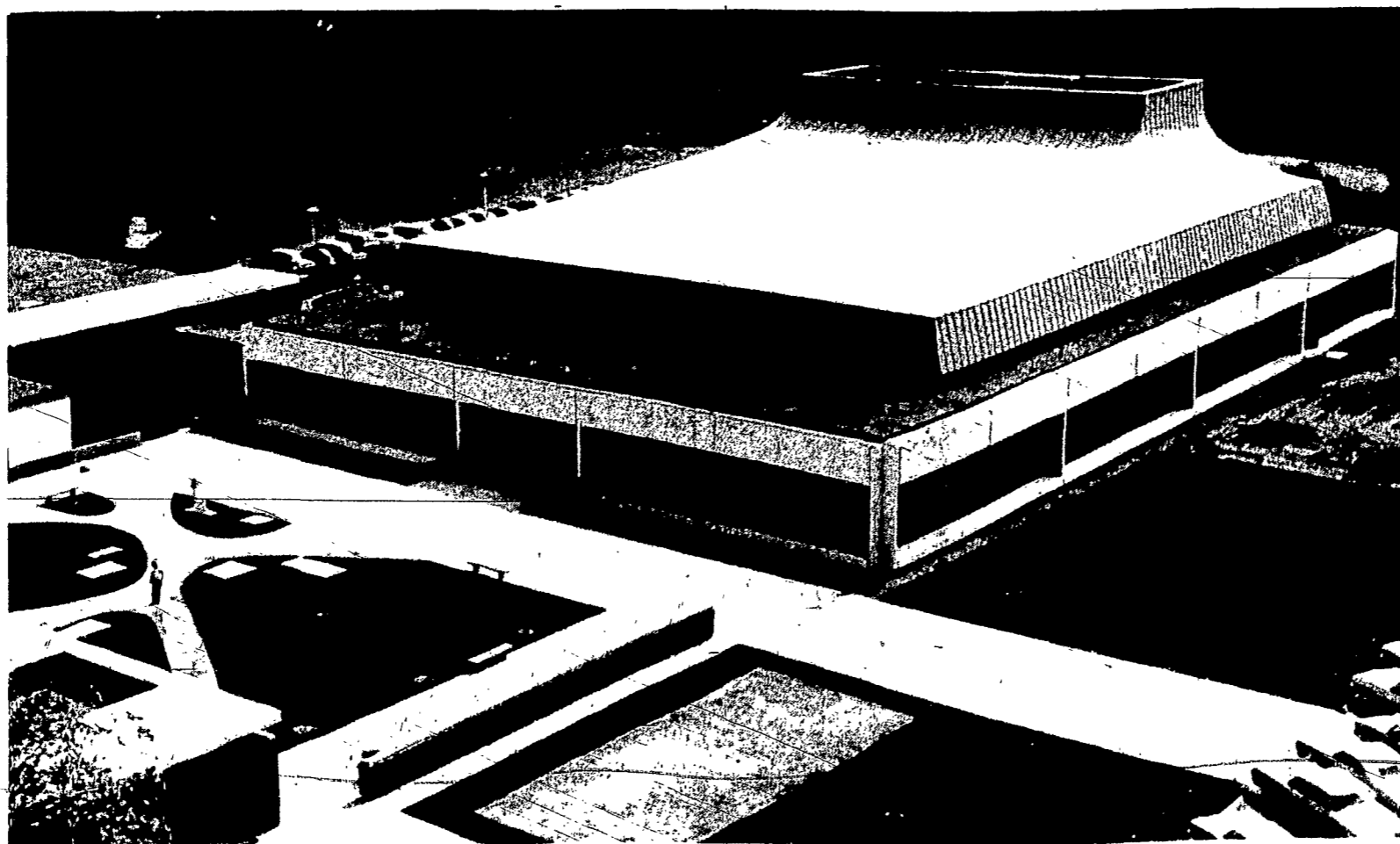
Bishop John J. Wright, chairman of the drafting committee for the pastoral letter, noted that the document will delve into the classic controversy on the visible versus the invisible Church, or in modern terms, the institutional Church versus the charismatic Church.

Geared to relate to the American setting, the document will relate "the problem of the Church" to "the problem of God," Bishop Wright explained.

"A major part of the document is concerned with the claims of the teaching authority in the Church and the relation of that authority to personal conscience."

Archbishop Dearden underlined the importance of the forthcoming pastoral when he said, "This is a new venture of the American hierarchy. It is an exercise of the teaching authority."

Following the precedent set this year, the next meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops will be held away from Washington in the Spring of 1968. St. Louis will be the locale on April 23-25. The Fall '68 meeting will again be back in the nation's capitol, Nov. 11-15.



Your Generosity Has Made This Possible

The strikingly modern Fine Arts Building at Nazareth College is now humming with activity on the cultural front. Becket Hall is completed and occupied; the new Science building at St. John Fisher College is going up rapidly. For a report on the progress of the Joint College Fund Campaign, turn to page 6 of this issue.

Pope May Visit Colombia Next

Vatican City — (RNS) — It is quite possible that Pope Paul VI may visit Bogota, Colombia, during the International Eucharistic Congress there next August, according to Antonio Antonio Cardinal Samore, president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

Cardinal Samore told a press conference, "I most ardently desire such a papal voyage."

"Pope Paul could bring Latin America a most wonderful message—one that would shake the whole continent," he said.

The Inside Story

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