

Federation Voted By Priest Unit

Chicago — (NC) — Delegates from priests' senates and associations throughout the nation voted this week to set up a national federation.

Of the 141 U.S. dioceses 114 were represented at the two-day meeting here, the first of its kind. The vote for federation was reported as 283-1.

Father Raymond Decker, full-time secretary for the priests' senate of San Francisco described the senate as consulting to the bishop in the governing of the diocese. Associations, he said, are independent groups of priests whose function is to support the professional development of the priests themselves.

In a major position paper

Msgr. Robert Kennedy told the assembly the "future of the Church in this country will be to a large extent in the hands of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, and senates and associations will have to relate to it in order to be effective."

Msgr. Kennedy, director of the social action department of Catholic Charities in the Brooklyn diocese, said the work of priests will have an effect on the status of the laity for some time.

"Until lay associations are formed, it will be priests who will speak up for the layman's problems," he said.

Holy Week Music Study Scheduled

"A fruitful Holy Week in a parish doesn't just happen. It's the result of much thoughtful planning well before Palm Sunday arrives."

This was the comment of Father Benedict Ehmman this week as he announced the second of three workshops destined to help diocesan church musicians prepare for Holy Week of 1968. The first was held at St. Francis de Sales Church in Geneva last Saturday.

The morning sessions are devoted to the music of Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday; the afternoon workshops to the music of Good Friday and Easter Vigil. Each workshop will close with a Mass at 3 p.m.

While the sessions are designed especially for organists and choir directors, parish priests and sisters who direct school choirs are welcome to attend, it was noted.

The next takes place tomorrow (Saturday, Feb. 17) at Elmira's Notre Dame High School. The third will be held at Rochester's St. Agnes High School on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The workshops run from a 9:30 a.m. registration to a 4 p.m.

The registration fee is \$5.00, which includes lunch and the music material to be practiced. Registration can be made at the door.

Seton Branches Elect

Newly installed officers for the Seton Branches of St. Mary's Hospital elected recently are Mrs. John R. Ryan, Second Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Brendon J. Meagher, Treasurer; Mrs. Frederick W. Sarkis, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Robert E. Parker, Telephone Committee; Mrs. Francis P. Marino, Seton Projects Advisor; Mrs. Joseph R. Vasile, First Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Joseph W. McHugh, General Chairman; Mrs. Joseph Henry Bayer, Seton Advisor. Not pictured are Mrs. William R. Brunson, Corresponding Secretary and Mrs. Theodore J. MacDonald, Seton Advisor.

For A Better World -- Evolution Not Revolution

Mexico City — The emphasis that the Church is placing on peaceful evolution to avoid revolution is of particular importance to Latin America, the international director of the Movement for a Better World said here.

The director, Dr. Alonso Vega, is in this country at the request of the Mexican Bishops' Conference, to give the bishops a series of lectures on application of the decrees of the Second Vatican Council.

"The ecumenical doctrine encourages a change in structures," he said at a press conference, "but it cannot infallibly be assured that such a change can be achieved by peaceful means. If it is not achieved quickly, the possibility exists that violence will ensue."

Speaking of Latin America, Dr. Vega said this is an area with a tremendous future and clearly aware of it.

"The road ahead cannot be found without the cooperation of other sectors in the world, particularly that of the wealthy, but their cooperation needs to be obtained without the implications of colonialism."

"Latin America does not see clearly whether the help that it is being given is or is not exempt from colonialist interests. As regards the cooperation that the United States can give toward the development of Latin America, it is very difficult for the United States to be fully capable of shouldering that responsibility."

Ricardo Lombardi, S.J. crees, Dr. Vega said: "It is not had hindered the ecclesiastical structures from keeping pace with historical evolution. Now, what is needed is a greater flexibility to allow for a more agile movement."

Atlanta Prelate Opposes Capital Punishment

Atlanta — (NC) — Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta asserted here that "about the only 'good' thing that can be said of state executions is that they are cheap, fast and politically satisfying."

"These are sordid substitutes,"

he said, "for law, order, justice and human dignity."

Archbishop Hallinan, in a signed editorial on capital punishment appearing recently in the Georgia Bulletin, archdiocesan newspaper, said "most American states, like most civilized nations, have outlawed the death penalty. But the law still hangs here, in this state, over the heads of at least two men."

"It is not just the executioner, the warden, the jury, judge or prosecutor," the archbishop continued. "It is not the governor alone who can stop it, but the General Assembly could lift that stain from our statutes."

"It is our mutual action, our shared responsibility," he declared. "You and I, through our representatives, pull that switch."

Faith, Morals Division Seen In Colleges

New York — (RNS) — A split between faith and morals, "real, deeply divisive," is the principal cause of religious anxiety and tension among members of the college generation, according to Father Bruce M. Ritter, O.F.M., Conv.

Therefore, the much discussed generation gap "has already become, or is fast becoming, something of a major credibility gap between the faith of this college generation and that of their fathers," he warned.

This conclusion was based on the results of a survey taken among the students at all-male, Roman Catholic Manhattan College here. The school is maintained by the Christian Brothers.

The role of the Church is difficult, too, Dr. Vega added, "because the Church must be in the world, yet not of it. She must stay in step with history, yet the Church is spiritual."

The Movement for a Better World, founded in 1952, aims at the application of Christian principles through the institutions of society. Its general director and founder is Father Benedict Ehmman.

Father Ritter, 40 years old, assistant professor of theology at the college and chairman of its Christian Life Council, said a questionnaire was answered by nearly 3,000 of Manhattan's 3,500 students.

A majority of those responding affirmed belief in a personal God, in the Trinity, and in the resurrection of Christ, and in the traditional doctrine of the "real presence."

Conversely, a majority thought it was not wrong to marry outside the Church, and could not accept the traditional Church teaching on artificial contraception, abortion and the infallibility of the Pope.

This indicates, according to Father Ritter, that the college student's "religious confusion and insecurity blisters out of a deep-seated, if reluctant, loyalty to the Church."

"When men die this death, we sign the fact of the killing," he added. "We approve."

Archbishop Hallinan declared "It is way past the time that a civilized state should start living by civilized law."

The editorial, at the outset, recalled that in 1964 a man 21 years of age was convicted of rape and more recently a 76-year-old man was sentenced to death in a slaying. Later, it said that "Georgia in awkward protest against its antiquated law has not taken a human life since 1964" but that "the law still hangs here, in this state, over the lives of at least two men."

"God alone has the power of life and death," the editorial said. "Even nations are sick today at the slaughter of Americans and Vietnamese (North and South), and are crying with Paul VI — 'War never again!'"

When men or society rise against their own, each of us loses a part of his manhood, indeed of his humanity. He dimly grasps that he's less an image of His Creator than he is intended to be.

"So all of us collectively pull the switch on these two men. Why?"

"We know that the history of American penology is stained in the cases where the wrong man was fatally punished," the archbishop said. "Could this be the case? Could some form of rehabilitation be tried? At the least, would not life imprisonment prevent repetition of this man's crime?"

A factor in this situation, he said, is the impact of the clergy. Large majorities of those surveyed felt that their bishops and parish priests had no influence on their lives.

Termining this "acute pastoral problem" one of the "most serious problems facing our bishops," Father Ritter, noted another ambivalence in the survey's results: overwhelming respect for the vocation of the priest or Brother.

Father Ritter summarized the situation this way:

"It is beyond question that our present Catholic college population is almost religiously schizoid in their inability to cope with the split between their doctrinal convictions and their moral uncertainties."

"This generation longs for prophets, but they will listen to them first, as our generation did not, as our generation tragically failed to do."

"I do not hear any prophetic voice in our Church speaking to this college generation. It is surely not that of Pope Paul. It is not clearly not that of the American hierarchy. The great lay leaders have not yet surfaced in what is still a predominantly clerical Church."

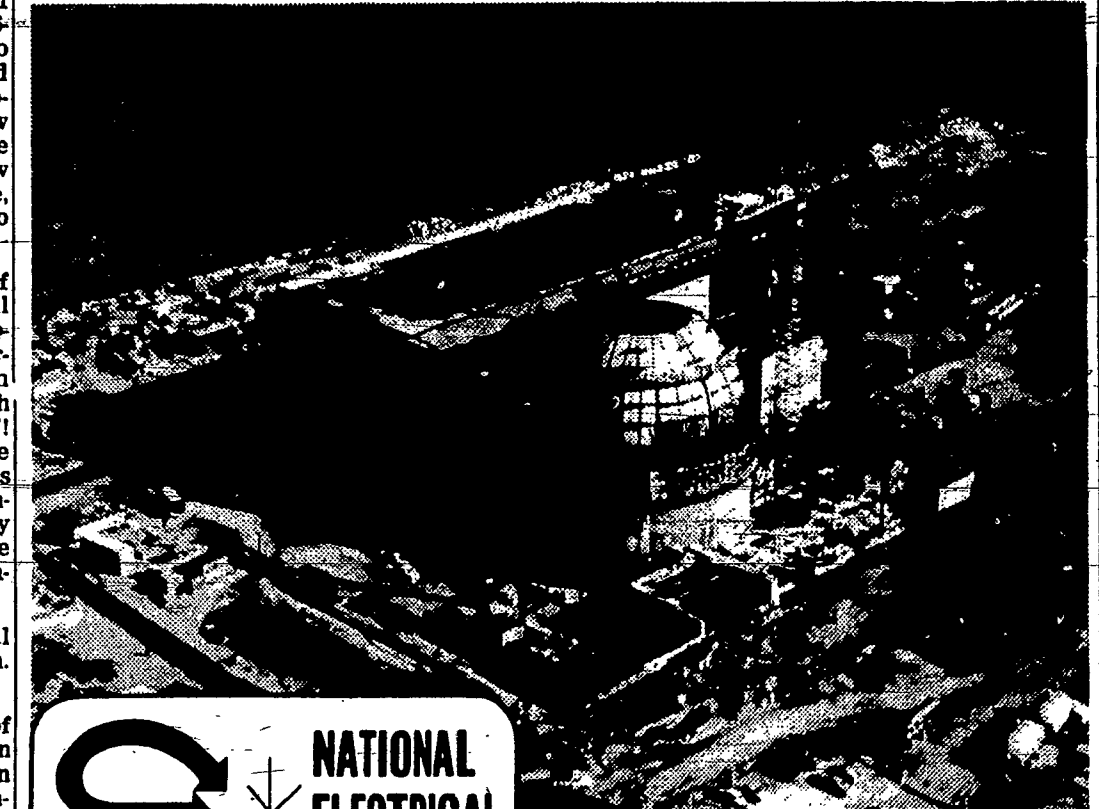
Yugoslav Bishop Named

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has named Bishop Matija Zvekanovic, Apostolic Administrator of Jugoslavenska Backa, as the first Bishop of Subotica in Yugoslavia.

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