



# Around The World

## French Women Given Role in Liturgy

Paris — (RNS) — Bishop Rene Bourdon of Mende, president of the French Episcopal Commission on the Liturgy, said that in future women will be permitted to give scripture readings and to direct congregational singing in Roman Catholic churches.

A decision on this point was given at the Vatican by Council on the Implementation of the Decree on the Sacred Liturgy, he said.

## Dutch Conservatives Petition Pope

Utrecht, The Netherlands — (NC) — Michael's Legion, an organization of Dutch Catholic traditionalists, has sent a telegram to Pope Paul VI urging him "to protect essential orthodox and to save the Dutch Church."

The Legion condemned the Dutch Catholic daily press, the Dutch Catholic television company and the country's Catholic radio station for being too progressive.

## Qumran Community Heretic?

Jerusalem — (RNS) — A prominent rabbi has questioned the status of the Qumran religious community that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls.

At a tree-planting ceremony on the shore of the Dead Sea near Qumran, Rabbi Shlomo Goren, chief chaplain of the Israeli army, said that evidence indicates the Qumran sect was neither Essenic nor Sadducean but quite possibly a group of heretics outside the fold of Judaism.

## Spanish Bishop Raps Social Conditions

Xerez, Spain — (NC) — Auxiliary Bishop Jose Cirarda Lachondo of Seville, in a letter read at all Saturday and Sunday Masses here, strongly criticized the harsh living and working conditions endured by workers in this area of Andalusia.

"Society is obligated to return to the workers a just salary for the work they have done," Bishop Cirarda said. "This salary cannot be subject only to the law of supply and demand, but must provide a life fitting dignity to the worker and his family." Referring to Spain's government-controlled labor syndicates, Bishop Cirarda declared that "free organizations of laborers are the only way to protect the workers from the abuses of civil authority."

## Catholic School Cut Worries Hilo High

Hilo, Hawaii — (RNS) — A diminishing supply of nuns may force the closing of the top four grades of St. Joseph's school, the only parochial school on the island of Hawaii. The school's financial problem is worrying public school officials.

Harry Church, district superintendent, said, "We'd be obligated to accommodate the 282 students they have in the top four grades, and it is a question of where to put them." Hilo High School has 2,100 students, and would be pushed beyond "the breaking point by the infusion of another 300 students."

## Priests Warn Rich Men, Rich Nations

Tucuman, Argentina — (NC) — Sixteen priests in this economically depressed area of northwestern Argentina have announced their support for a letter drafted in August, 1967, by 18 bishops of the "Third World" and giving support to "revolutions for the common good."

The priests, likening the poverty of their own area to that of northeastern Brazil, urged "a change of Christian conscience" on the part of the rich men and rich nations lest revolution overtake them.

## Catholic Monthly Seized as Subversive

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic — (NC) — Copies of a Catholic magazine published in Uruguay have been seized in the airport customs office on the grounds that they contain subversive material.

Three packages containing 150 copies of the January issue of *Vespera*, published by the Uruguayan branch of Pax Romana, international Catholic organization, were barred from delivery at the airport. Articles praising Ernesto (Che) Guevara, the Cuban communist leader killed in guerrilla fighting in Bolivia, were said to have caused the confiscation.

# Probing the Word

By FATHER ALBERT J. SHAMON

## The Blind Bartimeus (Quinquagesima Sunday)

Like the rabbi, Jesus often taught as He walked. On the road to Jerusalem for the Passover, He talked to the Twelve about His passion, death and resurrection. But they had no idea of what He meant. To dramatize their blindness, St. Luke follows this incident with the story of the blind man of Jericho, Bartimeus. His cure graphically taught that Christ was the Light and that a similar miracle was needed to enlighten the mind of the Twelve. The miracle happened at Pentecost.

For us, however, Bartimeus stands as the example of the man who would not be denied. When he learned that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, he cried out to him. The crowd got angry and tried to hush him. But he cried out again; the Greek text implies he screamed out frantically, like a wild man. He would not take no. Jesus was passing by. That was the point. He was not standing still; He might never come this way again. It was now or never. So Bartimeus screamed out convulsively.

As always, Jesus' response was epic. Other religious leaders merely talked. Jesus acted. A Chinese philosopher, who had been a follower of Confucius, then of Buddha, and finally of Christ, was asked what was the difference between the three great religions.

The philosopher answered, "Suppose you fell into a deep pit and could not get out. Confucius would fold his arms and say, 'Served you right. You should have watched where you were going.' Buddha would be full of sympathy and give all kinds of advice about climbing out. But Jesus would stoop down and lift you out." Thus when Bartimeus called, Jesus stopped talking and acted. "Receive your sight."

Bartimeus symbolizes all of us — so blind are we at times to the meaning of the message of Christ. Might we too not pray, "Sir, let me see."

Let me see that I must have an educated faith: one that corresponds to reality. For I have no right believing that things are not as they really are.

Let me see that I must have an experiential faith: one that comes to grips with life itself.

Let me see that the great task of the Christian is not liturgy, but love; not song, but service; not my will, but Yours.

Sir, let me see, lest in my blindness I be reduced to spiritual beggary as poor Bartimeus.

## Father Berrigan

# Jesuit Helps Expedite Captured Airmen's Return

Special to the Courier-Journal  
Ethics—A Jesuit priest, jailed by the government for a week in October for anti-war activities outside the Pentagon, traveled 18,000 miles last weekend with the State Department approval to rescue three captured airmen from a Hanoi jail.

"Ho-Chi-Min wouldn't touch any State Department or Air Force people with a ten-foot pole," Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J., pacifist, poet and staff member at Cornell University, said on return to his office here on Monday. "Professor Howard Zinn and I traveled to Hanoi in response to a cablegram from the North Vietnamese that prisoners would be turned over only to representatives of a U.S. peace group."

Father Berrigan, associate director of Cornell United Religious Work, the largest student organization on the campus, and Mr. Zinn, professor of government at Boston University, are members of the National Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam.

Father Berrigan described Hanoi as "the quietest city I ever saw. There are very few cars; traffic noises are the whirr of bicycle wheels."

"We arrived on a Friday, the 9th, from Laos and could not meet the three prisoners until the next Wednesday. The peace groups gave us a warm welcome, put us up in the best hotel and led us through an exhausting program of meetings. We met youth groups, visited a farm commune and saw the museums."

Although the city is ringed with anti-aircraft guns, and schools, hospitals and large groups of people have been dispersed to the rural areas for fear of bombings, Father Berrigan saw only one area gutted by bombs.

"The city is very calm and clean," he recalled. "There is evidence of hardships but I never saw a beggar. No one showed us any ill will on the streets but we were aware of the terrific hatred of the bombing and of the Air Force."

The Church is "doing nicely," the Jesuit traveler stated. "The Hanoi Cathedral was crowded for Sunday Masses and I was impressed by their singing and the congregational participation in the liturgy."

Eight new bishops have recently been named by Pope Paul "to replace men who emigrated south with the refugees," he said.

Although nine of the twelve 'chief churches' serving the one million Catholics have been destroyed or damaged in the

in an army base they were permitted to "exchange small talk for an hour." They were then separated until time for the plane departure to Vientiane, Laos, two days later.

"The fellows had known of our coming but were fearful that somehow we all would not get out. In the plane to Laos we had two hours of congenial discussion. They were in good shape except for Navy Lt. David Methany, who still had wounds from the crash he suffered when he was captured last November."

Discussing the morale of the North Vietnamese, Father Berrigan declared newspapers and posters had vividly described the terror of the Vietcong in Saigon and other cities of South Vietnam.

"The people we talked to spoke of the turning of the tide for their side. They accept Vietcong guerrillas as their brothers. Their confidence in final victory was this: 'We will reunify our country'."



FATHER BERRIGAN

war, Father Berrigan reported that "leaders of the Catholic community in Hanoi made a special point of sending greetings of love to the Catholics in the U.S."

Fatigued by the return trip (26 hours from Bangkok to New York City via Paris) and by a cold picked up in the "unheated Hanoi hotel," Father Berrigan was angered by "White House interference" in the deliverance of the long-imprisoned fliers. He accused the U.S. government of jeopardizing future releases of captured Americans in North Vietnam.

He said that Ambassador William Sullivan in Laos had been "smooth but ruthless" in taking the rescued airmen out of his custody and putting them on an Air Force plane for a flight to Washington.

"The spirit of our mission was betrayed by our government's intervention. Officials in Hanoi had stipulated that the use of U.S. military aircraft was not acceptable in returning the pilots. The three fliers had agreed to go all the way home with us on commercial airlines because of their concern for the future release of other prisoners."

When Father Berrigan and Mr. Zinn first met the prisoners

# War-Torn Country's Seminaries Survive

By PATRICK RILEY  
(NC News Service)

Biafra's seminary system is operating normally—or almost—despite a war on four fronts and a highly effective blockade that has isolated the country.

The seminaries constitute the only educational system still operating in Biafra, the former Eastern Region of Nigeria, which declared itself independent in May and has been waging war for survival for the past six months. Virtually all other schools have been closed, although other social services in Biafra have been operating at full efficiency.

Bigard Memorial Seminary, forced out of Enugu by the fighting that raged in that capital city last autumn, has grown in enrollment during its exile. It is believed to have more students than any other seminary in mission lands, and certainly has the largest student body in Africa. With 92 new entries in the philosophy department, the total enrollment in philosophy and theology has risen to 258.

The minor seminary of the archdiocese of Onitsha, threatened by Nigerian federal artillery and invasion, is reopening at Awka-Etiti, while students from the Enugu minor seminary have moved into the minor seminary of the Owerri diocese.

The closing of secondary schools has made room for fugitive seminarians searching for a place to settle down. In fact, seminaries have been relocating like players in a game of musical chairs.

The theology section of Bigard Seminary has opened in the former Owerri minor seminary at Umuowa village, near Oru, while the minor seminarians of Umuowa are to take up classes in a school at Ezinihitte, 23 miles from Owerri. Bigard's philosophy section is moving to the minor seminary of the Ikot-Ekpene diocese, while that minor seminary has itself moved to another location.

The 88 theology students at Umuowa are living in rather severe conditions, fetching their own water in buckets and using dug-out latrines. The kitchen is rudimentary. Food is restricted to what is produced locally; there is no tea, sugar, bread, eggs or meat.

The students have no library, since all 5,000 books of the seminary library were left behind in Enugu.

"The loss of our library may

be a blessing in disguise," commented the rector, Father John Daly, C.S.S. "While many of the older theological works are basic and invaluable, many others are just out of date."

The teaching faculty of the seminary (three Holy Ghost missionaries, including Father Daly, and two African diocesan priests) canvassed missions houses for theological books to build up a skeleton library for the use of the teachers at least. Because virtually all the students left their textbooks behind when they fled the fighting, they are working almost exclusively from notes taken in class.

St. Peter Claver Seminary at Okpara is teeming with all the life 200 and more teenagers can give a place. The boys are those, although about a dozen are refugees from outside Iboland, that is from the Northern, Midwestern and Western regions of Nigeria. One boy fled the advancing federal troops on the Nsukka front, where civilian casualties were very high. He has not since heard from his parents.

Despite the war and the constant threat of Federal advance, morale in the minor seminary at Okpara is good. Enthusiasm for the defense of the Ibo heartland against the invaders is so high that the rector, Father Kevin Doherty, C.S.S., must constantly emphasize that the country needs priests. The government, with more volunteers than it can absorb into the army anyway, encourages the seminarians to prepare for the country's future spiritual welfare by pursuing their studies.

## Vatican Paper Denys Pope's Moscow Visit

Vatican City — (RNS) — L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily newspaper, flatly denied the possibility that Pope Paul VI will make a visit to Moscow in the near future.

Rumors of such a visit have been circulating in Rome intermittently since the Pope was visited a year ago by Soviet President Nikolay Podgorny.

Such rumors "are entirely unfounded," L'Osservatore said, "and we have been authorized to make such a statement."

## DEADLINE FOR NEWS MONDAY NOON

# Catholic School Salaries Can't Pretend To Compete

Cleveland — Auxiliary Bishop Clarence E. Elwell of Cleveland said Catholic schools cannot pretend to compete with public schools in salary schedules.

Writing in a special education supplement of the Catholic Universe Bulletin, diocesan newspaper, Bishop Elwell, diocesan Episcopal vicar for education, added:

"If there are some lay teachers who because of family obligations or personal desire are unable or unwilling to make a sacrifice for the sake of Catholic education, then we should advise them to teach in the public schools or seek other employment, and limit our teacher personnel to those who can and will help us to reach the largest number of souls with the funds available."

"Catholic education has always been built on sacrifice. When that day passes, Catholic education will pass also."

Bishop Elwell noted that Catholic schools have been able to survive because of two factors: sacrificial lives and high pupil-teacher ratios — the latter made possible by demanding good discipline.

He pointed out that since World War II the lay teachers have grown in numbers until they now are about 40% of the entire teaching body. He added:

"As the pupil population has increased, more and more lay teachers have been hired to attract them, salaries have gone higher and higher with the result that some are more attracted by the salaries offered than by a spirit of sacrifice or dedication."

Bishop Elwell said there are many reasons to believe the saturation point in the percentage of lay teachers has been reached, and stated:

"This has been accelerated by the fact that some of them have organized and tried to force higher salaries. But Catholic schools cannot pretend to compete with public schools in salary schedules. They just do not have the financial resources available to them which public schools have."

In view of the stringent financial situation in parochial schools, Bishop Elwell concluded, it is necessary to arrive at a policy regarding lay teachers.



## To Edit 'America'

New York — (RNS) — Father Donald R. Campion, S.J., was named editor-in-chief of America, national Catholic weekly. Father Campion, an expert on social theory, sociology of religion and ecumenical affairs, will assume his new post in June. He will succeed Father Thurston N. Davis, S.J., editor-in-chief of America since 1955, who was appointed director of the John LaFarge Institute in New York, an ecumenical and interracial center.

**Sibley's suggests a stunning Shagmoor for spring**

Basing its suggestion on 100 years of fashion know-how, Sibley's presents this lovely Shagmoor, guaranteed to win your approval. Fashioned especially to compliment the petite figure, its wool and nylon fabric, raglan sleeves, novelty collar and slanted front pockets are sure to make your spring coat dreams come true! See it in rich pastel blue or bright white. Petite sizes 6-14. \$65. Sibley's Career Coats, Second Floor, Downtown only.

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All Sibley Suburban Stores Now Open Monday thru Friday Until 9:30 P.M.