

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Sargent Shriver Awarded Laetare Medal

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — R. Sargent Shriver, who led the federal government's anti-poverty campaign and was first director of the Peace Corps, has been named to receive the Laetare Medal presented annually by Notre Dame University to an outstanding American Catholic lay person.

Mr. Shriver, brother-in-law of the late President John F. Kennedy, recently was appointed ambassador to France.

In announcing the award, to be presented later, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Notre Dame president, said that Mr. Shriver has brought to his public service "a rare combination of compassion born of his Christian faith and courage stemming from his American heritage.

"With uncommon vision and energy, he has personified the concern of Americans generally for those less fortunate than themselves, whether disadvantaged fellow-citizens of the U.S. or peoples of far-off and underdeveloped nations."

Pastors Help Stem "Panic Selling" Tide

Philadelphia — (RNS) — Two Catholic pastors have joined civic leaders in North Philadelphia in trying to rally white residents to resist "panic selling" as Negroes move into their neighborhoods.

An association formed to promote an integrated community has about 850 members. Its leaders include Msgr. John G. McFadden and Father Francis Rauseok.

Msgr. McFadden told a community rally in his parish auditorium that the parish had lost 350 families within the past two years.

Home owners were asked to fill out forms stating they did not wish to sell, so that under a recently enacted ordinance, real estate brokers could not legally solicit them.

Buffalo Bishop Attacks Abortion Bill

Buffalo, N.Y. — (RNS) — Bishop Joseph A. McNulty of Buffalo said that "all citizens" must realize that any liberalization of the state's abortion law constitutes a "threat to human life."

He made the assertion in a statement issued, he said, because "the Legislature will soon be asked to consider a proposed bill which will change and liberalize the existing law concerning the procuring of legal abortion."

"Since the consequences of this bill are of such grave importance to everyone," the bishop said, "it is a duty of conscience for all citizens of this state to give careful study to this complex question.

"The requirements of civilized life and moral norms worthy of man demand that respect for human life be recognized as the basic value of our society.

Survey of Newman Role Asked

San Antonio — (NC) — A comprehensive study of the role of Newman apostolate on secular campuses throughout Texas was recommended at a seminar here attended by more than 100 Newman leaders.

The chaplains, professors and students voted to ask the Texas Catholic Conference for a sociological survey "to determine . . . what the Church can contribute to the secular college or university."

The resolution noted that "there is general agreement only on the proposition that the Newman clubs of the past are of little or no value today and that existing programs conducted by Newman centers — even the best — are woefully inadequate."

Social Action Work Starts

Washington — (NC) — Detroit's Archbishop John F. Dearden, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC), announced that the USCC's social action department has started work to meet the problems highlighted in the report of the National Commission on Civil Disorders.

Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh, chairman of the social action department, said that the department will prepare a program designed to include ecumenical cooperation, as well as Catholic activity, in efforts to eliminate the causes of unrest in the nation's cities.

The Semantics of 'Catholic'

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — Miss Jacqueline Grennan, president of Webster College, asked, "Might not a dynamically Catholic institution be catholic in its original sense of universal—truly and avowedly ecumenical rather than self-consciously denominational?"

Her speech here was sponsored by the academic commission of Notre Dame University's student government.

"When asked if we are Catholic, we must ask the questioner how he is using the term before we can answer," Miss Grennan said. "If to be more than Catholic is to cease to be Catholic, we are no longer Catholic."

'At-Home' Seminary Program

Lansing, Mich. — (RNS) — Manpower, a new live-at-home seminary program for high school boys, has been launched in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing.

Bishop Alexander M. Zaleski, in announcing the training plan, said it is aimed at those youths in Grades 9 through 12 who have "leanings" but are unready to break home ties and make a firm commitment to the clerical life.

The new program will involve special study, discussion, prayer consultation, recreation, and group activities. It will also provide an opportunity for young men to discuss the idea of their own vocations with other young men of "similar inclination."

Greek Actress in Baptism Dispute

New York — (RNS) — The chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America denied that a refusal to allow actress Melina Mercouri to have a child baptized here was ordered by the government of Greece. Miss Mercouri was to have served as godmother.

Father George Bacopulos said permission was not granted because Miss Mercouri had married a non-Christian, outside the Church, and that the sacraments were therefor withheld. He said this was a rule "practiced by all Orthodox Churches in all such cases."

The Greek actress, currently appearing in a Broadway play, is married to movie producer-director Jules Dassin who is Jewish.

Newman: Whither Or Whether?

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — "Whither Newman?" was the dominant theme of a National Conference on the Campus Ministry here. But there were occasional voices raising an even more disturbing question — "whether Newman?"

The general theme of the meeting, co-sponsored by the National Newman Apostolate and the College and University Department of the National Catholic Educational Association, most often came down to a discussion of the future of the 1,600 priests and nuns involved in Newman work on some 1,200 non-Catholic campuses.

[The Diocese of Rochester serving 16 secular schools, has seven full-time chaplains, ten priests giving part-time care and five Sisters in the Newman apostolate. More than 10,000 Catholics are enrolled in the secular colleges and universities within the diocese.]

While not disparaging the activist Newman priest, Father Andrew Greeley, a Chicago sociologist, argued for Newman priests to be "affective, not instrumental" persons. "The best way for us to bear witness to rationality and humanity is in the quality of our own relationships with others in the university community," he said.

One of Main Issues

Father Greeley's position—that the Newman chaplain should find his role in his personal encounter with others, particularly students, and realize that his leverage in the university's power structure will never be great—became one of the issues of the conference.

It was generally agreed that today's student is not satisfied with what passed for "objective" instruction in the classroom of a decade ago. He demands now to encounter a flesh-and-blood person at the lectern. His expectations are value-oriented, and along with vocational goals he is looking for a workable philosophy of life.

"Today students study religion for existential reasons: they are searching," said Robert Michalson, chairman of the department of religious studies at the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California. "I have never known a student generation so interested in religion. My students know the secular city and are generally disenchanted. They like its freedom and relative ease of life, but find it directionless; it offers no salvation. So they are turning to the east, to mysticism, to contemplation."

However, the professor cautioned against the notion that "the study of religion in state universities will somehow bring personal salvation or replace seminaries." He noted in response to questions that although some informal contacts exist between the campus ministry and his department at Santa Barbara, there is no formal cooperative effort.

Chaplain Morale High

Despite the notes of pessimism, especially from the sociologists of religion who addressed the conference, the morale among the Newman chaplains present was high, and there were occasional dissents from the floor.

"I think an unreal picture is being presented here," said Father Michael J. Gilligannon, Kansas City, Mo., during the closing session. The negative attitude of some of the speakers, he said, "does not reflect the life experience of chaplains who feel there has been a real change in the attitude of the Church and the university toward Newman work."

Father Henri J. M. Nouwen, a visiting professor of psychology at Notre Dame, concluded the conference with a discussion of the skills and training necessary for Newman work.

Father Nouwen urged an internship under an experienced supervisor. "What future chaplains need is not just experience but also someone who constantly corrects their mistakes, makes them aware of their own idiosyncrasies, and suggests new ways of expression. Training for the ministry can very well be called a controlled pastoral experience," he commented.

How to Stop 'Erotic' Mail

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Procedures have been established by the Post Office Department for assisting the mail patron who receives "pandering advertisements" which he considers "erotically arousing or sexually provocative." He is entitled to ask the Postmaster General to prohibit further mailings of such material.

This is the procedure the complainant should follow in getting Post Office Department action:

1. The complainant must submit the offending advertising with the envelope or wrapper in which it was mailed, to his postmaster and sign a statement that he finds the material to be "sexually erotic" and wishes no further mail of any kind from the mailer.
2. The offending mailer will be served an order by the appropriate postmaster to discontinue any further mailing to the person.
3. If the complainant receives a second piece of mail after 30 days from the time the mailer was notified, the Postmaster General is authorized to ask the Justice Department to seek a court order permanently restraining the mailer from any further mailings to that person.
4. Should the mailer persist, he would be held in contempt of court.

Bishop Won't Debate R.I. School Aid Bill

Providence, R.I. — (NC) — Msgr. Daniel P. Reilly, chancellor of the Providence diocese, said a bill to provide state aid to non-public school children is not diocesan-sponsored and will have to stand on its own merits.

Msgr. Reilly declined to debate the issue with Episcopal Bishop John S. Higgins of Rhode Island who recently spoke against the bill, which is now in the state General Assembly. The bill is sponsored by the state chapter of Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF).

The legislation would provide a \$100 tuition grant for each non-public school child in the state and a \$600 grant for students attending private colleges.

"The diocese is not the sponsor," Msgr. Reilly stated. "Let the legislators study it on its own merits."

Earlier, Bishop Higgins called the CEF bill "the most frightening proposal of life in Rhode Island today."

'Silent Night' Stamp Forthcoming

Vienna — (RNS) — The Austrian Post Office will issue a special stamp this year to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the world-famous Christmas carol, Silent Night.

The carol, composed by parish choir-master Franz Gruber to be sung with guitar accompaniment because the church organ was not playable, was first sung in the old parish church of St. Nicholas at Ogdendorf near Salzburg.

Bishop Has Unique Tithing Plan

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — The tithing plan announced by Bishop John J. Wright for the Diocese of Pittsburgh has no precedent in the Roman Catholic Church, so far as the bishop himself has been able to determine.

"To my knowledge," he told Religious News Service in an interview, "this sort of plan has never been tried in the Church anywhere before."

Although its announcement at this time came as a response to the report of the National Commission on Civil Disorders, Bishop Wright said he had been working on the project for over a year, examining what his rights were for such an innovation in the administration of Church funds and determining what amount he could allot for the aid of the poor through this channel while fulfilling his other diocesan responsibilities.

In a pastoral letter, the bishop announced the establishment of The Diocese of Pittsburgh Fund for Aid of Neighbors in Need. The fund, to be administered by a commission of priests and laymen, will be given 10 per cent of the funds received by the diocese which have not been designated by the donors for specific uses.

In other words, Bishop Wright said in his interview, he will give 10 per cent of "all the money that I am free to handle as bishop."

Well-informed sources at the Pittsburgh Chancery Office said that funds of this kind last year amounted to approximately \$1.25 million, which would have meant a tithe of \$125,000.

Besides the tithe on available diocesan revenue, The Diocese of Pittsburgh Fund for Aid of Neighbors in Need will be eligible to receive gifts from groups, parishes or individuals. Bishop Wright indicated that he expects some fund-raising activities to be devoted specifically to this cause.

The bishop said that he expects the Fund to function basically as "home relief" and to be spent "primarily in Pittsburgh."

Catholic Educators Get Grant from Ford

Washington — (NC) — The National Catholic Educational Association has received a one-year grant of \$60,800 from the Ford Foundation to train a corps of specialists in long-range planning techniques for Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

The project director will be Anthony Seidl, a member of the education faculty at the University of San Francisco, who has been given a year's leave of absence to head the program. Staff and consultation services will be provided chiefly by the Academy for Educational Development, Denver, Colo., which has pioneered in the development of longrange planning techniques for education.

The grant was announced here by Father C. Albert Koob, executive secretary of the National Catholic Educational Association.

"The need for better budgeting and accounting in Catholic education," Father Koob said, "increases as the public character of 'non-public' education becomes more evident. This character implies a great obligation for better planning and account-

ing for the use of community resources.

"The anticipated outcome of such planning will be an ability to engage in a frontal assault on the problems of these schools, thereby facilitating cooperation with governmental and private agencies, and other educational institutions."

"Up to now," Father Koob said, "few Catholic elementary and secondary schools have engaged in longrange planning using professional techniques." He said that in the latest available survey, for the 1963-64 school year, only 25 percent of Catholic secondary schools used formal budgets and only 9.7 percent planned for more than one year. One per cent of the latter group planned up to five years ahead and none planned beyond that point.

"While these conditions have undoubtedly improved during the last half-decade," Father Koob said, "it is still apparent that our schools need a great deal more familiarity with techniques of long-range planning, and methods of developing programs that promote better utilization of time, space, personnel, and monetary resources."

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