

AROUND THE WORLD

For Catholic Press, Freedom, Control

Berlin — (NC) — Professional freedom for the editor, but religious policy control by the bishop are basic to the operation of a successful diocesan newspaper.

This summarizes views reported to Alfred Cardinal Bengsch of Berlin by a blue-ribbon committee he appointed to study possible reorganization of the Berlin diocesan newspaper, Petrusblatt.

A news policy that gives readers objective, candid accounts of Church happenings was recommended, along with the right of a diocesan editor to select or even refuse chancery-originated news releases.

At the same time, it was stated that since a diocesan publication by its very nature serves the Church's teaching mission, the publishing bishops must have an "uncontested right" to determine a paper's religious orientation.

Australian Pastoral Assails Abortion

Melbourne — (NC) — The growing movement to legalize abortion was assailed by the Catholic bishops of Victoria in a recent pastoral letter.

The bishops charged that "today governments and men challenge the ennobling truth" of life's value.

"We have already stated that the direct abortion of a child in the womb, for any reason whatsoever, even to preserve the life of the mother, is murder," the pastoral asserted. "Catholics have therefore the duty to constitute a strong body of public opinion against the legalization of abortion."

New Laws Dismay Catholic Medics

Nottingham, England — (NC) — Doctors, lawyers and moral theologians discussed at a conference here growing concern among Catholics in the British medical profession over moral and ethical problems involving abortion and euthanasia. The conference was the annual symposium of the Catholic Doctors' Guild at Nottingham University.

Britain's first act sanctioning abortion comes into force April 27. Experts studying its practical application have serious misgivings over the so-called conscience clause, which is intended to permit anyone to refuse to participate in an abortion if it violates conscience. This is of particular consequence to Catholic doctors and nurses. They face also the possibility of legal voluntary euthanasia. Dr. John Frost, secretary of the Catholic Doctors' Guild, said that an euthanasia bill was ready to be presented to Parliament at any time.

British Bishops Set Design Code

London — (NC) — The bishops of England and Wales have ruled that tabernacles may not be placed on altars where Mass is celebrated unless no other place can be provided.

They recommended that the Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in an area distinct from the central part of the church. This area must be in view for the people in the nave and easily accessible from the sanctuary.

Holy images, they said, should be moderate in number and their relative positions should reflect right order so as not to confuse the people and foster devotion of doubtful orthodoxy.

Uruguayan Bishop Defends United States

Tacuarembo, Uruguay — (NC) — Envy of a powerful nation underlies much of the criticism of United States action in Vietnam, according to Bishop Miguel Balaguer of Tacuarembo.

In his column in La Manana, a Montevideo daily, the bishop wrote that the United States was fighting not only North Vietnam, but also powerful communist nations that provide funds, weapons and ammunition to Hanoi.

If U.S. policies in Vietnam are highly criticized, it is because America shows its face while the communist powers stay behind the scenes, the bishop said.

He called Americans "a generous people" who are now helping many nations with foodstuffs, financial aid and technical assistance.

Teenage Culture Absorbs Young Asians

Singapore — (NC) — Catechists here and in Malaya, faced with the age-old problem of making a western religion understandable to the people of the Orient, have progressed with catechetical development since the Second Vatican Council.

Young Catholics are slowly overcoming the Asian tendency to see religion as a system for getting favors, and are more open to the message of the Gospel.

But ironically, efforts to present young Christians with a theology they can understand have been hampered by a change among the young Christians themselves. Just as the catechists had begun to bridge the chasm between Western and Oriental minds, Oriental teenagers became part of a new culture: the teenage cult that is becoming more and more universal.

The answer here is the same as the answer anywhere, observers say. Churches must learn to speak to the young before they lose them.

Government Uses Mission Girls' Research

Singapore — (NC) — Research done by the girls of Stella Maris School here is providing vital sociological information to Church and civic officials working to build the new-Singapore.

Done as part of the training program of the school's child welfare and social work course, the research has provided material for several pamphlets and monographs used by the Singapore government.

For the Church, the importance of the surveys carried on at the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary school lies in the need for up-to-date information on the life of the people.

Expert Says Jews Expected Christian Aid

London — (NC) — A Vatican specialist in Catholic-Jewish relations said here that Jews all over the world expected Christians to take Israel's side in last June's Arab-Israeli war.

The specialist, Dutch Father Cornelius Rijk, a member of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, said that Christians must now realize that Judaism is "a complex reality of which religion is but a part."

"After the events of 1967 a clear statement is needed in which Judaism is acknowledged as it really is, not as Christians want it to be," he added.

Father Rijk, who was giving the annual lecture to the Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies in London, quoted the Protestant theologian Karl Barth as saying that the only important ecumenical relation was that between Christians and Israel.

Courier-Journal — Friday, April 12, 1968

Today's Youth Praised By Christian Brother

By BILL RING
(NC News Service)

Washington — A Christian Brother-psychologist had a word for distraught parents, relatives and others worried about today's bewildering younger generation. The word — don't!

Brother Vincent Grimes, F.S.C., head of the psychology department at La Salle College, Philadelphia, asserted that today's youngsters are much better equipped mentally, physically and morally to cope with problems than those of generations past.

One of the few Religious licensed in Pennsylvania to practice psychology, Brother Grimes, a veteran in handling problems which beset families and youth, said despite the difficulties of parents to cope with such things as in-and-out movements, communications gaps, establishments, he has found today's youngsters may "have their heads in space" but their "feet are firmly on the ground."

He said the most important years of life are the four years of high school — "when a boy comes into high school as a freshman, you talk to him like a child, but when he's a senior, you talk to him like a man because he is on the threshold of manhood."

Brother Grimes said high school students today are better educated than those of previous generations, mastering subjects which a few years back were taught only in colleges.

He said parents too often are over-protective — "today they'll see their son with a baseball bat in his hands, tomorrow a rifle; today they'll debate about lending him the family car, tomorrow Uncle Sam will have him flying a jet plane."

Brother Grimes said the principal goal is to get some happiness out of this life. He said youngsters should strive for a middle ground between the under-achievers — "students who can do better but only give you just enough to get by" — and the over-achievers — "students who aim at scholastic marks over their head and too often end up in straight-jackets."

He proposed that in every course of study there should be one subject which even the best students should be unable to pass. He commented: "The real mark of a student and a man is how he shapes back from failure, for it is failures which prepare a person better to face the problems of life."

Brother Grimes said he does not subscribe to the term "new breed" for students. He said they have the same old problems to be settled in the same old ways. By, and large, today's youngsters still subscribe to the old, fundamental truths. The big trouble today, he said, is that youngsters "are being rushed into manhood and just don't have enough time to grow up."

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