

AROUND THE COUNTRY



"Rights of Conscience" Drive Launched

New York — (RNS) — The American Pax, a Roman Catholic peace group, announced here it has launched a "Rights of Conscience Campaign" for the recognition of conscientious objection to a particular war.

It said the "major thrust of the campaign is that the consciences of those who follow the just war tradition should be respected."

Present Selective Service law recognizes as conscientious objectors only persons who oppose all wars and not just a specific war.

Aid Sought For Parochial Schools

Harrisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — Parochial schools are recognized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as capable of fulfilling the requirements of the state's compulsory attendance law, and therefore should receive state financial support, William B. Ball, of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, told the House Education Committee.

The attorney said that religious-affiliated private schools are not "eccentric schools of religiosity as they appear in some caricatures" but are concerned with contemporary requirements and academic excellence.

Mr. Ball told the legislators that the U.S. Supreme Court in 1963 ruled that public funds might be used to support secular programs in private schools under the condition that "there must be a secular legislative purpose and a primary effect that neither advances nor inhibits religion."

Mormons Report Record Growth

Salt Lake City — (RNS) — Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) at the end of 1967 reached a record high of 2,614,340, with 76 full-time missions and 1,987 branches.

Enrollment in all types of Mormon schools stood at 186,323. A total of 53,591 children and 62,280 converts were baptized into the Mormon Church last year.

The denominational statistics were reported at the 138th General Conference of the Mormon Church.

Seminary To Become Ecumenical School

St. Nazianz, Wis. — (RNS) — The 60-year-old Salvatorian Minor Seminary here will become an ecumenical school next fall for boys interested in social service careers. It will be named the John F. Kennedy Preparatory School.

Father Myron Wagner, director, said the school would seek to develop in students "especially a career-oriented concern for the disadvantaged sick and poor."

The school has been a high school for candidates for the priesthood. Enrollment has dropped from 200 in 1963 to 100 in the last year.

Diocesan Fund To Help Negroes

Detroit — (RNS) — Plans for a \$1 million campaign to "root out white racism," win housing for Negroes and bring direct help to those "trapped by the ghetto" were announced here by Archbishop John J. Dearden of Detroit.

The prelate said the funds will come from the Archdiocesan Development Fund Collection to be held in the eight-county archdiocese May 5-20 among its 1.5 million parishioners. He said that after "certain previously made financial commitments" are met, money realized from the drive will go toward the anti-poverty and anti-racism programs.

The announcement observed that if the response to the 1968 fund-raising drive is as large as that of last year, about \$1.5 million would be left for the social work.

Priest Heads New Orleans Committee

New Orleans — (RNS) — Msgr. Arthur T. Screen, pastor of St. Pius X Church here, has been named chairman of the Human Relations Committee of New Orleans.

Created by a city ordinance in September, 1967, the committee is an independent body that recommends changes beneficial to the city as a whole.

The committee is composed of 23 members, 12 of whom were named in a city-wide election on March 9. The city was divided into six areas, with one Negro and one white representative elected from each.

Seminarians To Be Sent To College

St. Paul — Students preparing for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis will do their college work henceforth at the College of St. Thomas.

The collegians will have their own quarters on the campus of the major seminary, St. Paul's, beginning next September. Their unit will be known as St. John Vianney Seminary.

Archbishop Leo Binz, announcing the so-called 4-4-4 program, said priestly formation "will be improved with three separate and autonomous units," and there will be "a better distribution of students in age groups." The minor seminary, Nazareth Hall, will be continued as a high school, and the major seminary will provide the final four years in theology.

The announcement pointed out that the college-offered academic resources unavailable at the seminaries.

Newman Workers Awarded Danforth Grants

Washington — (NC) — Seven Newman chaplains and one Newman nun were among recipients of 42 campus ministry grants awarded this year by the Danforth Foundation, St. Louis. This is the first year Danforth grants have been available to Catholics engaged in the campus ministry.

Among the Newman recipients were: Father Clarence F. Dye of the State University at Buffalo, N.Y. and Father Thomas W. Phelan, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

The grants are made on the basis of professional competence, intellectual promise and religious commitment. They provide a year of graduate study in a university or theological school.

TV, Churches Fighting Race Tensions

Harrisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — Religious leaders of the Harrisburg area are participating in a four-week television program to relieve racial tension. WITF-TV, an educational-public television station at nearby Hershey, broadcasts eight times a week locally-produced shows on "The Other Harrisburg."

Youth Problems Cause Social Dispute in Spain

Valladolid, Spain — (NC) — A large, dissident group of delegates to the 27th annual Social Week here expressed dissatisfaction with the meeting, particularly regarding the problems of Spanish youth.

Recommendations had included:

— Free schooling for all elementary pupils as a means of pushing the "democratic integration" of Spanish society;

— Efforts toward closing the "generation gap";

— Establishment of organizations and programs for youth in sports, cultural endeavors and extracurricular training involving students and young workers;

— Revision of the concordat between the Holy See and Spain (Church authorities wish to end the centuries-old government privilege of presenting its own candidates to fill vacant sees).

The dissident group of 400 delegates issued its own statement in which it protested against the lack of adequate representation from students' and young workers' groups. Their absence, the statement said,

ruled out any possibility of "realistic debate on the present conditions of Spanish youth."

Subsequently, the group issued its own recommendations and findings. Among them were:

— "The basic problem of our youth is that they must start working at an average age of 14 because of their families' poverty. This reduces the

possibility of children's choosing a vocation and obtaining a training for life. The lack of skills haunts the whole life of these young people with adverse consequences for them and society itself."

— "Our youth has no representative labor organization and faces constant barriers to freedom of association."

— Chances for education are very slim.

— While most of the working youth do not practice their religion "they do exemplify the Christian virtues of solidarity, poverty, sacrifice and justice — and more — and more — are becoming identified with the renewal spirit of the Second Vatican Council and seek to lead committed lives."



NEW PARISH ARCHBISHOP — (NC) — Archbishop Francois Marty of Reims was named Archbishop of Paris to succeed the late Pierre Cardinal Vuilliot. The 63-year-old Reims prelate is vice president of the French Episcopal Conference. He was ordained in June 1930 and became Bishop of Saint-Flour in 1952. He was named Coadjutor Archbishop of Reims in 1959 and succeeded to the see in 1960. Archbishop Marty also serves as president of the Mission de France, which trains the so-called worker-priest.

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He Predicts Reunion of Two Faiths

Beirut — (RNS) — An Eastern Orthodox layman and noted Lebanese political leader told a U.S. television network interviewer here that Eastern Orthodoxy and the Roman Catholic Church would be reunited in the "appreciably near future."

Interviewed by NBC, Dr. Charles Malik declared: "I am certain that in the near future, and by that I mean the appreciably near future, the two Churches will find a way to return to what they were before they split apart."

Roman Catholicism and the Eastern churches have been separated since 1054 when long-standing differences resulted in mutual excommunications. These anathemas were revoked by mutual action of Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodoxy.

Dr. Malik was asked if his prediction of complete reconciliation was made with the knowledge of the Pope and Patriarch.

"I speak with the knowledge of the Patriarch because I have been close to him and I know what's going on in his mind," he replied. He also said he knew "what's in the mind of the Orthodox bishops in respect to this matter."

"The most important question in the possible reunion of the two branches of Christendom," he said, "is the infallibility of the Pope." He noted that the doctrine of infallibility has been in effect "only 90 years" and added, "I feel it could be reinterpreted in a way that would be acceptable to the Orthodox because we believe in the infallibility of the church."

160 Medics to Work in Dominican Republic

Miami — (RNS) — Some 160 "vacationing" doctors and dentists from 20 states left here for a two-week "busman's holiday" in the Dominican Republic.

Members of the Christian Medical Society, they are donating their services to aid 200,000 needy people in the province of Forte Plata where they will vaccinate some 20,000 persons in 60 villages with diphtheria, typhoid, tetanus and polio shots.

Working out of an 150-bed government hospital, they expect to complete approximately 1,000 eye surgeries and at least 300 major operations, according to Dr. W. Mel Alexander of Los Mirada, Calif., western regional director of the society who is heading the group.

The evangelical Protestant medical men were invited by the Dominican government and expect to treat 150,000 persons. More than \$100,000 worth of drugs they secured themselves was sent ahead of the doctors for their use on arrival.

Dr. Alexander said the physicians will be working with missionary groups who will provide interpreters.

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