

AROUND THE COUNTRY



A rare ceremony: a father and his two sons are ordained together as priests of the Benedictine Order at Atchison, Kans. Left to right, they are Father Ignatius John Habiger and sons Father Benedict John and Matthew Henry. Presiding at their ordination was Archbishop Edward Hunkeler of Kansas City, Kans. Father Ignatius joined his sons in the seminary after 37 years as a school principal, land appraiser, businessman and oil producer. His wife, Mildred, died of lung cancer in December 1963. Father and sons concelebrated their Mass in the abbey church of St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison. (Religious News Service)

Court Ruling on Alcoholism Deplored

Boston — (RNS) — The North Conway Institute said it was "terribly disappointed" at the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the arrest of chronic alcoholics for public drunkenness.

The Institute, an interreligious association for education on alcohol problems, was one of several groups filing amicus curiae briefs for the defendant in *Bowling v. Texas*.

The Rev. David A. Works, executive vice-president, said the Court's 5-4 decision "must be greatly lamented by all law enforcement agencies, health facilities and church leaders who have long wished for a great new day of justice and treatment for the chronic alcohol offender."

The Court ruling concerned the case of 66-year-old Leroy Powell of Austin, Texas, who had been jailed more than 100 times for public drunkenness. The four dissenting Justices claimed his arrest violated the Eighth Amendment prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishment."

Book Loan Bill Filed In Jersey

Trenton, N.J. — (NC) — A bill to permit the state to lend textbooks and other instructional material to students attending parochial schools has been introduced in the New Jersey State Senate.

Sponsor of the measure is Sen. Frank Guarini of Hudson County, who said it is patterned after the New York law recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Books to be loaned would be the texts used in public school. Districts would be reimbursed by the state at the rate of \$10 for grade school students and \$15 for those in high school.

A similar bill died in the Assembly a year ago.

Observers see little chance of action on the measure this year because the Republican majority is cool to aid programs benefiting students at non-public schools. Earlier this year it cut back the school busing program enacted a year ago.

Nineteen Suggested As Voting Age

Frederick, Md. — (RNS) — The Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ has gone on record here as favoring the lowering of the voting age in state and national elections to 19.

A petition asking the resolution was introduced by youth delegates to the conference, which comprises churches in the District of Columbia, Delaware, New Jersey and parts of Virginia and Maryland.

One of the youth delegates explained why age 19 rather than 18 was suggested. "We felt we needed that extra year to get out into the world and get to know what it was all about," she said.

Americans Attend Coptic Celebration

New York — (RNS) — Two staff officers of the National Council of Churches carried American greetings to the dedication of the new Coptic Orthodox Cathedral of St. Mark in Cairo this week.

They are Dr. Robert C. Dodds, associate secretary of the division of Christian unity, and Dr. Livingston H. Lomas, Church World Service director of the Middle East.

Enroute, Dr. Dodds consulted with Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodoxy, in Istanbul.

Racial Peace Plea Sets Day of Prayer

Grand Rapids, Mich. — (RNS) — The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church has set Sunday, July 14, as a day for its 279,000 members to fast and pray for racial peace.

Members, declared the Synod, should "give themselves to repentance and to public and private prayer . . . that men of different races may be cleansed of their sinful antagonisms through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ."

Those who advocate, "by whatever means," discrimination in the denomination's schools, hospitals, or recreational associations, the Synod statement continued, "must be reckoned as disobedient to Christ and be dealt with according to the provisions of the Church Order regarding Admonition and Discipline."

Catholics to Join Theological Body

Vatican City — (NC) — Catholic theologians in the future will be among the members of the World Council of Churches' Theological Commission on Faith and Order.

This ecumenical step forward was announced in Rome by Bishop Jan Willebrands of the Netherlands, secretary of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. He held a press conference in connection with the upcoming world assembly of the World Council of Churches.

The WCC's Commission on Faith and Order, said Bishop Willebrands, "has always maintained a certain autonomy in regards to the WCC. It has always admitted among its theological members persons who do not belong to a WCC member church."

"The Church as such, then, is not involved by the participation of its theologians."

Nevertheless, he added, "naturally the responsibility of the theologians who will be members is serious. It calls for the contribution of Catholic teaching 'in the common search for unity. The interest of objectivity in these matters is one of the major concerns of the faith and order commission."

Intercommunion Supported at Unity Meeting

Detroit — (NC) — Voting delegates to the fifth national Workshop for Christian Unity voted at the closing session here to petition the Vatican, the World Council of Churches and all Christian denominations to approve intercommunion at marriage ceremonies and "ecumenical gatherings."

Theologians attending the conference interpreted "ecumenical gatherings" however, as "any occasion when two or more Christians are gathered," giving the resolution the force of asking for an open communion table in all Christian churches. The vote was 78 in favor and 35 against, with 18 delegates abstaining.

The delegates also agreed, 69 to 34, with 25 abstaining, that a married priesthood in western Roman Catholicism would be "of ecumenical advantage."

By a vote of 93 to 18, 18 abstaining, they agreed that any authorized Christian clergyman should be permitted to officiate at a wedding between a Catholic and a non-Catholic.

It was voted 95 to 15 that partners to a mixed Catholic-Protestant marriage should be permitted merely to promise to raise their children in the Christian faith, "without the necessity of the presently required legal promises" to raise them as Catholics.

The delegates also petitioned Pope Paul VI to remove the excommunications edicts against Martin Luther, Queen Elizabeth I of England, John Calvin, John Knox and John Wycliffe.

Lisbon Cardinal Asks Release of Jailed Writer

Lisbon — (NC) — Manuel Cardinal Goncalves Cerejeira of Lisbon has asked for the release from prison of the author of a book that criticizes the Church and the government.

After learning that the book had been banned and the author arrested, the cardinal wrote the writer, saying that he was not responsible for the government's action and did not approve of it.

The book, "In Favor of a Dialogue with the Cardinal Patriarch," is by Raul Rego, 55, a newspaperman who once studied for the priesthood.

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