Courier-Journal --- Friday, August 9, 1968

# Many Rush to Defense of Pope's Encyclical

Washington — (NC( -Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington said here that Catholic theologians and others dissenting from Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control are "setting the Church on fire."

Describing himself as "sur-prised and saddened" by the Catholic critics of the encyclical, Cardinal O'Boyle said:

"There are many excellent and competent Catholic theologians, and I am sure the Church is in need of them. But the Church can do without the dissent of those gentlemen who forget that in the Catholic Church even the most expert theologian must accept the teaching authority of the Church — that authority which resides in the bishops, and especially in the successor of Peter.

The cardinal made his comments in a pastoral letter read (Aug. 4) in all churches of the Washington archdio cese. The cardinal himself read the letter from the pulpit of St. Matthew's cathedral.

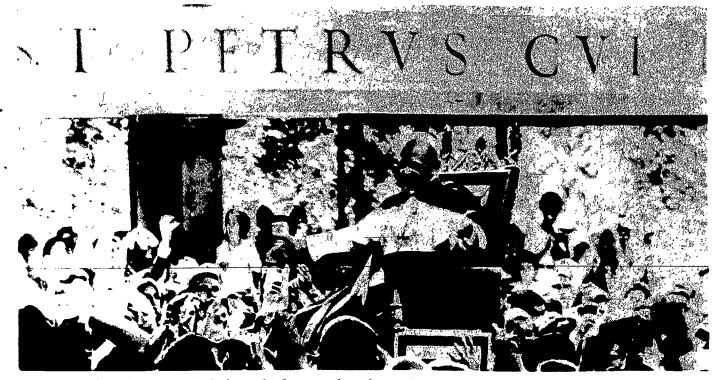
He acknowledged that the condemnation of artificial birth control is "a 'hard saying' - one difficult for many to accept."

"During the last few years," he said, "many couples who want to be good Catholics were persuaded, despite the continued reaffirmations of the teaching by Pope Paul himself, that it would be all right for them to use the 'pill' or to do something else that Catholic teaching forbids.

"But Catholic teaching in this matter is an expression. of the moral law that God Himself has placed into the nature of human beings. So the Holy Father declared once again what the Catholic Church always has taught '

### Cardinal Heenan

London — (RNS) — John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, speaking with what he described as "some



Pope Paul VI is transported through the crowd gathered in an audience hall of his Summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, Italy. At the audience on July 31, the pontiff appealed to Catholic couples to understand and accept his ban on artificial methods of contraception contained in his encyclical, Humanae Vitae issued on July 29. (RNS Photo)

authority," urged Roman stain from the sacraments. Catholics who are practicing birth control not to despair and "above all" not to "abstain from the sacraments."

In a pastoral letter issued here, the cardinal, who was the pro-president of the final papal commission which reported on the subject of birth control, also defended Pope Paul VI against critics of his encyclical, Of Human Life.

Cardinal Heenan's comment is being accepted here as the most authoritative statement on the encyclical made so far in Great Britain. "The Church," he said,

whom this ruling will bring hardship. Those who have become accustomed to using methods which are unlawful may not be able all at once to resist temptation.

the cardinal said. "has compassion on many for Msgr. Vaughan New York - (RNS) - Ro-

man Catholics are not free to disregard the directives on birth control contained in Pope Paul's encyclical, the "They must not despair. Above all, they must not abhead of the Catholic Theo-

"However often they fail,

the Church on earth."

logical Society of America declared here.

they must ask God's grace to-Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan, find strength to obey His law. president of the society, made May God grant us all the wishis comment in answer to a dom and humility to accept statement signed by 230 the guidance of the head of Catholic theologians. They claimed that Catholic spouses "may responsibly decide ac-But he added, nobody could cording to their conscience" complain that the Pope had to use artificial contracepmade the decision without

due preparation, nor could it be said that he sought no advice. He studied opinions and the key sentence in the stateadvice from all parts of the ment issued in Washington, world, and that was one rea-D.C. by the theologians son why the publication of is: "It is common teaching in the encyclical was delayed, the Church that Catholics may dissent from authoritative non-infallible teaching of the

sons for so doing exist."

#### authority even in a non-infallible way."

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops, speaking

out on Pope Paul's encyclical

upholding the Church's ban

on artificial birth control, has

asked priests and the laity to

"receive with sincerity what

"Even in cases in which an individual who is an expert in a field feels personally convinced of what is opposed to non-infallible teaching of the magisterium . . . and hence does not accept it," Msgr. Vaughan declared that he is not free "to propose this tives in some cases. of his own as acceptable

teaching since the responsi-Msgr. Vaughan said that bility for this judgment lies ultimately with the Pope and bishops, if God has established the Church in the way she claims." U.S. Bishops

magisterium (teaching authority) when sufficient rea-

He denied that this statement is true, charging that it never has been permissible in the Church "to disobey a practical directive by what is licit in matter of divine law

the encyclical was made public and after widespread organized resistance to it was announced here and in New York by some theologians andpriests. Noting the problems the en-

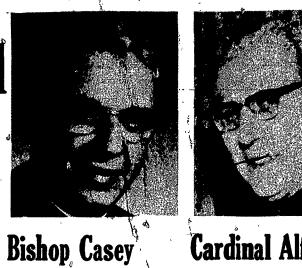
The bishops' support was announced there days after

cyclical poses for many conscientious Catholic groups, "the bishops said, "We must face the real ity that struggling to live out the will of Loyal Catholics God will often entail sarcifice." 🕔

"The sacreclness of Christian marriage makes it a special concen of the Church. Its dignity must be carefully safeguarded and its responsibility fulfilled. The recent encyclical letter of Pope Paul VI reflects this concern.

"The Holy Father, speak-ing as the supreme-teacher of the Church, has reaffirmed the principles to be followed, in forming the Christian consciences of married persons in carrying out their responsicision, as he predicted, will bilities

"Recognizing his unique role in the universal Church, we, the bishops of the Church in the U.S., unite with him in calling upon our priests and people to receive with sincerity what he has taught, to study it careFully and form their consciences in its light. "We are aware of the difficulties this teaching lays upon so many of our conscientious married people but we must face the reality that struggling to live out the will of God will offten entail sacrifice."



## **Cardinal** Alfrink

## Time of Schisms

Will Back Pope Over in Church Amsterdam-(NC)-Bernard Paterson - Pope Paul has just made the most agoniz-

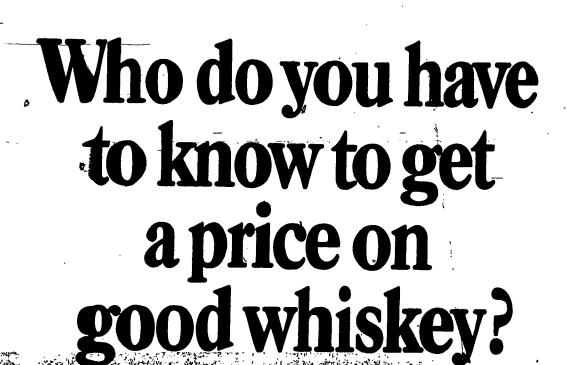
Cardinal Alfrink of Utrecht ing decision of his life," Bishpredicted that Pope Paul's enop Casey said in a statement cyclical on birth control. Humanae Vitae, will not lead to on the encyclical Humanae any rupture in the Church.

'The time of schisms is "Pope Paul's Encyclical, 'Of over," the cardinal said. "Encyclicals can be no reason for Church's teaching on birth any schism for anyone with control, has helped to clear some theological education." the air. We know where we

"The infallibility of the Pope is not an issue in this case," Cardinal Alfrink said. cause controversy but loyal Catholics throughout the "The encyclical is infallible

world will rally to support the only if the Pope declares so man who is the Vicar of, explicitly. But encyclicals are Christ on earth and who statements of papal authority that one cannot ignore. Cath-One of Paul's predecessors, oplics must think this over and St. Pius X, said 'when there in forming their consciences. is a question of the Vicar of they must take notice of the Jesus Christ, it is not the encyclical." time to examine, but to obey;

we must never mete out the The cardinal said he is not certain whether the encyclical will harm the ecumenical extent of the order given, so as to limit the obedience we movement. In Protestant cirowe to him; we must not bring forward other rights cles there are also different views on the issue of birth against the right of the Pope control, he stressed.



Vitae (Of Human Life).

Human Life,' reaffirming the

stand. The Holy Father's de-

The statement:

speaks for him.

to teach and command.



# **'ADVENTU 12''- 0**



Ends

Pï

BC

SEE YOU

NEAREST

FOR HIS

**SPECIFIC** 

PRICES AN

TERMS

**G-E DEALE** 

that comes from the highest he has taught." 'Heroic, Prophetic', Says Bishop Wright



Pickets demonstrate outside St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York to protest Pope Paul's encyclical. The 15 pickets - only one of whom was a Catholic - represented the Parents Aid Society of Hempstead, L.I. Its president, William R. Baird, left a petition at the chancery door. It was addressed to Archbishop Terence J. Cooke, who was in Puerto Rico. Some Catholics contested the right of non-Catholics to demonstrate. Said Mrs. Roseanne Kennedy of Hillsdale, N.J., to Mr. Baird: "This ban is for Catholics. You have no call to protest." (RNS Photo)

Father Kueng said that the

papal teaching methods.

Excerpts of the statement:

cision is not an infallible one.

It calls for obedience. But rea-

sonable obedience to a fallible

statement, precisely because

it is fallible, demands that the

"First of all, the papal de-

# Those Opposed

### **13 Marquette Teachers**

Milwauke - (RNS)-Thir- ful, or the Church's professional theologians" on birth teen members of Marquette University's theological faccontrol ulty issued a statement holding that Pope Paul's encyclical did not remove all doubts on the use of contraception the university's theology deand was not binding on individual Catholics.

Their statement said that itative statement on the imdespite the Pope's action "no morality of artificial contraconsensus exists in the ception and must be seriously Church among either the hier considered by Catholics, does archy, the body of the faith

### Father Hans Kueng

**Bona, Germany** — (NC) — around the sun. Under threat Father Hans Kueng, controversial Swiss theologian and professor of fundamental theology at the University of Tuebingen, Germany, said that Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control could be-Recently, Franziskus Cardinal come a second Galileo case. Koenig of Vienna said that

the Church might revise its Galileo Galilei, a 17th cen censure of Galileo tury Italian scientist, was accused of heresy for claiming that the planets revolved birth control encyclical is not

#### 7 from St. Peter's

Seven members of the St. Peter's College theology department here issued a statement criticizing Pope Paul VI's encyclical and also claiming the Pope "has defaulted on his real role, which is to communicate the Gospel to the contemporary world."

person responding inquire in-The seven theologians to reasons for the statement three lay teachers and four before giving it his assent. priests-of the Jesuit college Otherwise his response is contended the tone of the enneither free nor human. cyclical is abstract and the papal decision is a fallible

"Secondly, the Pope is takone. They also charge the ing an unusual course of ac- there are competent and rep-Pope has taken an unusual tion and one scarcely in ac- utable theologians on both course of action which is not cord with traditional papal

"form responsibly their own conscience on the question."

The encyclical does not A signed statement read to "make certain what was prereporters (July 31) by Father viously uncertain" and has Bernard Cooke, S.J., head of not "decisively altered the situation of practical doubt partment, said the Pope's encyclical, while it is an author. which existed within the Church prior to its publication," the statement read.

It is "authentic," but not not preclude their right to \_"infallible teaching."

infallible and expressed the of excommunication, he was fear that the Pope's decision forced to withdraw his theory contradicting the opinion of the majority of the papal that the sun—and not the birth control commission will earth-is the center of our planetary system, and was harm the moral authority of then kept under house arrest the Pope He added that, because of

the delay in giving the papal decision, Catholics had become accustomed to decide this\_question according to their own consciences.

Jersey City, N.J.—(NC)— in accord with the traditional \_\_teaching methods. He is em-

bracing the minority view in a disputed theological question and attempting to force the minority view on the Universal Church. Traditional papal methodology has been either to decide that the majority view has become sufficiently widespread as to constitute a consensus and to propose this to the faithful, or bility. to point out that the question is not yet clear enough to yield a consensus and to propose that Catholics may safely follow either opinion, since sides.

Pittsburgh-(RNS) - The condemnation of birth control by Pope Paul was described as "heroic' and "prophetic" by Bishop John Wright of Pittsburgh in a statement released here

While calling upon confessors to show "tender sympathy for human weakness," the bishop declared that conformity to the papal pronouncement will be the measure of Catholicity of those "who teach or preach moral theol-

"The pressures on Pope Paul to speak on contraception other\_than he did this week have been massive. They have been pressures of human respect, politics, prestigious opinion, emotional torment, threats that Church unity might be destroyed or ecumenical hopes dimmed," Bishop Wright said.

"The professionals have been fully consulted and patiently heard," he said, "the what he had to do, is recall to leader has finally spoken as a generation that does not only he could and should do."

like the word, the fact that sin exists; that artificial con-"The Pope is not a theological referee in a crisis of traception is objectively sinthis kind. Rather. mindful of apostolic responsibilities proper and special to him, aware of the requirements in conscience of his unique teaching ofice in the Church (as a

ful; that those who impose it, foster it, counsel it, whether they be governments, experts,or-God forgive them!-spiritual directors, impose, foster and counsel objective sin.

insights and convincing argu-

If only our own personal

convictions would be at stake,

reverence and love to the

Holy Father would be a suf-

ficient motive for me to be

silent forever. But in this case

is the whole credibility of the

church at stake. Many are

shaken in their faith and

Although we theologians

have studied this matter

throughout a lifetime, we are

much less infallible than the

ments.

Faithful Shaken, Says Father Haring

Following is a major portion of a statement on the birth control encyclical by Father

Bernard Haring, German moral theologian, who has frequently lectured at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Pope Paul VI shows a striking optimism regarding the convincing power of his argumentation. He believes that gives "an adequate response not only to the faithful but also to world opin-

ion." He asserts that each individual marital act must be open to the procreative process and that therefore the communicative and procreative biological function of the marital act may not be separated.

pope is in the non-infallible exercise of his teaching office which we have to honor. However, in this particular case of the encyclical Humanae Vitae it is not just a matter of the opinion of a single theologian.

trust in the church.

He insists then that in "the field of morals as well as that For myself it is above all a of dogma all should speak the concern for the poor and scrupulous. The wording of same language." If in this matter only one language will the new encyclical is so absobe allowed or tolerated in the lute and so unambiguous that Catholic church then many, no honest casuistry of Cathomany voices of dedicated men lic theologians can any more of the church have to grow take care of these numerous dumb, silent or lose creditragic cases if they wish to keep themselves within the realm of this teaching.

If we wish to speak about natural law to the world at large and with modern peowithin the Catholic church then we have to show that, by definition, a matter of natural law is based on ıan experie

all sides and now speaks not as a teacher among many teachers but as the supreme teacher, under God, of the flock committed to him in Peter by Christ. "One wonders whether we

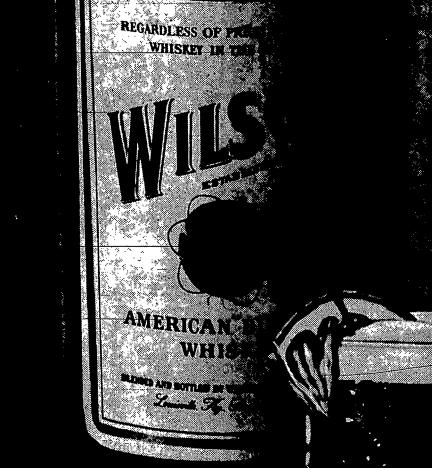
matter of faith) and in the

world (as a matter of his-

will make good the assurances all parties gave from the beginning, and presumably meant, that our doctrinal opinions were speculative pending the pronouncement of the Pope.

"Our conformity with this given word," he said, "will be the measure not only of our Catholic fidelity to the Pope but of our greatness, particularly be it said pointedly, the greatness and integrity of those specifically among us who teach or preach moral theology.

"What Pope Paul has done,



Just us.

(**<sup>§</sup>4.99** a quart)



We appeal to the Pope

urgently to use all the re-sources of collegiality in

order to come to a broader

consensus which is worked

out by the whole Christian