



### Pax Romana Meeting

Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh exchanges views with Caesar Chavez, militant leader of California's Farm Workers, between sessions at the annual meeting of Pax Romana, the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural

Affairs. Looking on is James H. O'Connor, former president of the American Freedom from Hunger Foundation. The meeting was at St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia. (RNS Photo)

### Cardinal O'Boyle:

## My Position Misrepresented

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, Catholic Archbishop of Washington, charged here that a group of theologians "seriously misrepresented my position" on the question of their right to dissent from the teaching of a papal encyclical.

The cardinal issued a statement in response to press reports of a meeting which he had held with 20 theologians from Catholic University here. Acting as chancellor of the university, Cardinal O'Boyle summoned to the meeting a group of theologians who had signed a statement dissenting from Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control.

Two of the priests at the meeting told the press afterward that they believed the cardinal had accepted their right to express dissent.

The meeting proved, Father Charles Curran, said, "that our dissent is not a rebellion, that our position is legitimate and, therefore, acceptable."

Such statements were called "false and misleading" by Cardinal O'Boyle, who said they "suggested that my effort to be fair implied a vindication of the claim of 'right of dissent.'" Both as a faithful Catholic and as bishop of this diocese, I want to make it absolutely clear that there was no such vindication. Listening with patience does not imply agreement.

Catholics may fail to observe the Church's teaching, "through weakness" and be reconciled by confession and Communion, Cardinal O'Boyle noted. "However, no Catholic is justified in evading or setting aside the obvious meaning of Pope Paul's teaching—which is simply the constant teaching of the Church—when he forms his judgment and shapes his action," he said.

"Those who say that this is the common teaching about dissent offer no evidence that the Catholic ever tolerated dissent of the sort that they are carrying on and even instigating," Cardinal O'Boyle remarked.

"In fact, I wonder whether theology is not being perverted from its high office in the service of the Catholic Faith into an instrument for destroying the faith and replacing it with

a new set of man-made ideas."

He also criticized the statement, which has been signed by more than 600 American and foreign theologians, for asserting "that the constant teaching of the Catholic Church, may in practice be subordinated to other factors in a Catholic married couple's situation."

"In my judgment," he said, "those who give Catholics advice like this are misleading them because, by implication, what they are saying is either that human judgment stands above the law of God or that the Catholic Church is lying when it claims divine authority for its moral teaching."

### Results of Poll

## Most Dutch Disagree With Papal Encyclical

Amsterdam—(NC)—A poll taken by the Netherlands Institute for Public Opinion (NIPO) in Amsterdam indicated that 71 per cent of the Dutch people generally think that the point of view of the encyclical on birth control is wrong, and that only 22 per cent agree with its message.

The main reason given by those polled for disagreeing with the encyclical was that "people must be able to decide for themselves." This reason was given by 60 per cent of those disagreeing with the encyclical. Many said that the encyclical "is a limitation of man's freedom."

Only 20 per cent of the Catholics polled agreed with the encyclical.

Catholics disagreeing with it gave the following reasons for their position:

—The encyclical underestimates the real danger of overpopulation (14 per cent).

—The Church must not interfere in the matter of birth control (11 per cent).

—The pill is generally accepted already (7 per cent).

—The rhythm method is not natural (5 per cent).

Of Catholics agreeing with the encyclical, 24 per cent gave religious reasons for their stand, 21 per cent opposed any use of contraceptives, 17 per cent said that anyone who starts a family must take the consequences, 13 per cent said the use of contraceptives leads to moral laxity, and 6 per cent said contraceptives must be banned now because they were banned in the past.

One hundred seventeen Dutch professors of theology and philosophy expressed approval of the statement issued earlier this month by the Dutch bishops on the encyclical.

In that statement, the bishops, while noting that the "individual conscience cannot ignore such an authoritative declaration as this encyclical," said that "many factors that determine the individual conscience with regard to the conjugal act are all ready clear, for example: mutual love, relations in the family and social circumstances."

Father Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P., internationally known professor of theology at the University of Nijmegen, was among those expressing agreement with the statements of the bishops and the teachers.

## 800 Latin Priests Hit 'Oppressors'

Buenos Aires—(NC)—The Latin American bishops have been urged by 800 priests to summon all Christians of the continent to join in taking action against the "violence of the oppressors."

In a letter addressed to the Latin American bishops, the priests urged the prelates meeting at their general assembly in Medellin, Colombia, to proclaim the right of the exploited peoples of Latin America to "legitimate defense."

"For some time, the letter stated, the real violence 'has been exercised by a minority of the privileged against the great majority of the exploited public.'"

"It is the violence of starvation, inequality and underdevelopment," the letter said, "of persecution, oppression and ignorance, of organized prostitution, and illegal but effective social, intellectual and economic discrimination."

The political systems are controlled by an oligarchy, and "in many countries the military is the power or pressure group that controls the direction of politics," it said. In other countries, it continued, "the Church represents a certain power group. And, shamefully, that has caused the Church to align itself with the abuses of the civil and military powers."

## British Division Deepens In Encyclical Aftermath

London—(RNS)—Two British bishops have summoned clergy conferences to attempt to deal with the spreading and deepening crisis of conscience precipitated in England by Pope Paul's encyclical of Human Life.

Bishop David J. Cashman of Arundel and Brighton has scheduled meetings on Sept. 9 and 10 in two different areas of his diocese.

Bishop Derek Worlock, 48, of Portsmouth, one of the youngest bishops in the Church, said that he would hold several meetings in September to discuss "conscientious difficulties" and other aspects of the encyclical with his priests.

Both bishops are in southern England. Opposition to the encyclical has been much more vigorous in the South than in the North.

In a pastoral letter, Bishop Worlock urged Catholics to "see this question within the whole context of the Christian life, for it is scarcely the acid test of being for Christ or against Him."

While it is praiseworthy to defend freedom of conscience, he cautioned, "we owe it to others as well as to ourselves to make sure that our conscience is properly informed."

London's influential Sunday Times, commenting on the reactions to the encyclical, said that the bishops face "a revolt by their own clergy unprecedented in modern times."

"It is now clear that the handful of priests who have openly disagreed with the Pope's encyclical is only the tip of the iceberg," the Times said.

Meanwhile, among the laity, resistance is crystallizing around a London-based organization, the Ad Hoc

Group of Catholic Laymen and Lay Women. The group began about a week after the encyclical was issued.

Within two weeks, the spokesman noted, "we had 3,000 at a protest 'pray in'... at Westminster (Cathedral) and 800 at Southwark Cathedral. By next weekend we will have pray ins and all-night vigils in churches all over the United Kingdom."

## Chile to Oust 'Rebel' Priest

Santiago, Chile—(NC)—In the wake of the seizure of the cathedral here by a group of priests and laymen (Aug. 12) the Chilean government has revoked the authorization of one of the priests to remain permanently in the country.

He is Father Paulino Garcia, a Spanish priest and one of the spokesmen of the group that took over the cathedral as a "demonstration against what they called 'wasteful spending'" on the visit of Pope Paul VI to Latin America for the 39th International Eucharistic Congress in Bogota, Colombia, and the Church's identification with L.H. rich.

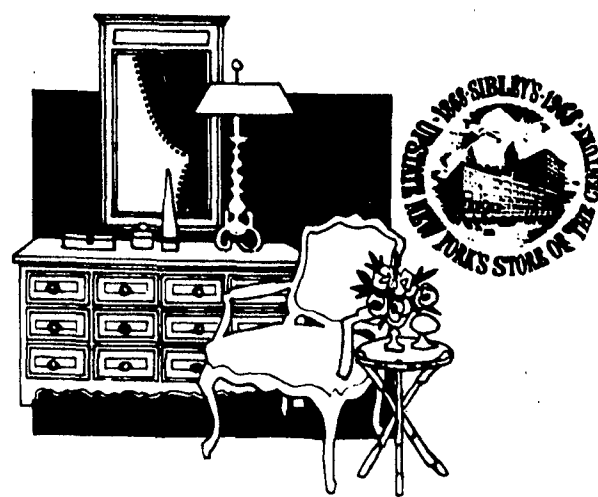
Father Garcia was one of the priests who celebrated a Mass in the cathedral during the 14-hour forcible occupation by the dissident group. Priests who participated were later suspended by Cardinal Silva of Santiago. Following their reported request for forgiveness and promise of obedience to the Church authorities, however, the cardinal revoked the ecclesiastical censure.

It was not reported whether Father Garcia was one of the priests who made submission to the cardinal.

Meanwhile, 23 priests have renounced their ministry in the Valparaiso diocese in fulfillment of an ultimatum previously presented to Bishop Emilio Fagnano Covarrubias. The priests demanded more democratic procedures in the administration of the diocese and greater changes in the Church.

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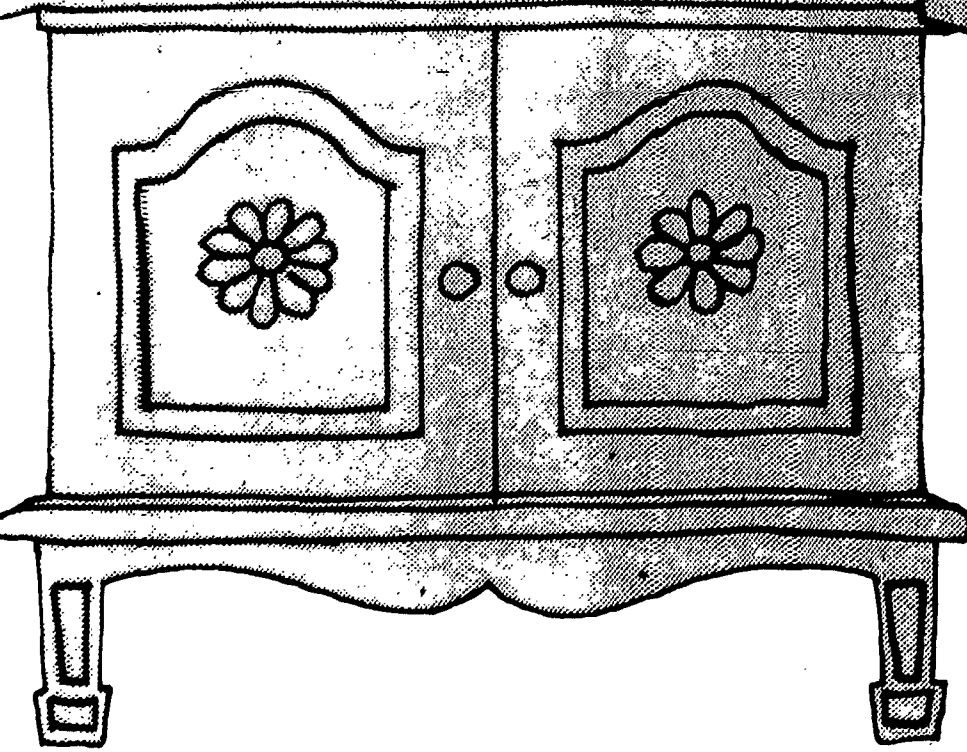
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### New Job for Sister

Chicago—(RNS)—Sister Mary Olivia Barrett, R.S.M., has resigned her post as college president to work for the state of Illinois. Head of St. Xavier College here, the Sister of Mercy has resigned that position to become a full-time staff member in the education department of the Illinois Commission on Human Relations, "with six parishioners making a protest," a spokesman said.