

Buffalo Bishop Defends Transfers

Buffalo — (NC) — Bishop James A. McNulty of Buffalo is issuing a statement discussing his transfer of seven seminary faculty members who differed with Pope Paul VI's birth control ban, insisted that "fidelity to the vicar of Christ is a requisite for a seminary."

Four of the priests were made assistant pastors, one was sent to the minor seminary, one returned to the archdiocese of Boston from which he was on loan. The first transferred, Father Thomas G. Dailey, who signed the nationally publicized statement of dissent made by some 650 Catholic theologians, became a pastor of a church in Batavia.

Six of the priests had made their opinions on birth control known through a private audience with the bishop after five of them had sent him a "statement of conscience" following Father Dailey's transfer.

Bishop McNulty asserted in his statement: "The law of the Church imposes upon the bishop of a diocese the responsibility to protect the integrity of the teachings of the Church. . . . The seminary is a particularly

sensitive place for education in the doctrines of the Church.

"In the seminary we form priests for tomorrow. The priest, professor, by his lectures and by his personal attitude exerts a deep and enduring influence upon the seminarian," he noted.

"The Pope is the Vicar of Christ. Pope Paul is the spokesman for Christ in the Church today. It is Pope Paul who brings us Our Lord's words of eternal life."

Father Francis Reagan, transferred from his duty as spiritual director, said that "the whole discussion" with the bishop "was on the point of authority."

"We are all loyal to the Holy See," he added, "every priest who was there including myself are loyal and good priests. If the Pope had issued an infallible statement there would have been no question as far as we were concerned."

"But we feel," he said, "that theologians are justified in discussing non-infallible statements. It would

have been infidelity to the teaching of Vatican II otherwise."

He added that he "could never say to people 'practice birth control,'" and that personally he "would not have signed the Washington statement." But he said that he and the others agreed that they would have to recognize the right of Catholic couples to follow their own conscience on the issue.

"We were concerned," he said, "about a pastoral approach to people who had decided this question for themselves. It was a pastoral concern for our people — we wanted to bring this to the attention of the bishop."

Papal Authority Noted

Newark, N.J. — (NC) — Fourteen priests of the Newark archdiocese have sent a letter to the more than 900 priests in the See asking them to sign a statement in support of ecclesiastical authority.

Neither the letter nor the accompanying statement mentions the controversy surrounding Pope Paul's encyclical over birth control. The letter, however, takes note "of the recent attacks on ecclesiastical authority and also of the growing confusion among the laity."

The statement, the letter said, is "an attempt to clarify the issue." Those who sent the letter said the statement essentially represents "the opinion of the vast majority of the priests of the archdiocese."

"We now affirm what we have always believed," the statement says, that the Holy Father, as the Vicar of Christ, possesses unique teaching authority in the work of the salvation of souls.

"Furthermore, on the day of ordination, we made a solemn commitment to the Ordinary and his successors. We now publicly renew our steadfast loyalty to this commitment."

Buffalo Controversy

Buffalo — (NC) — An independent lay organization called "Vox Populi" has been organized to encourage Catholic laity to "speak out" — in either dissent or affirmation — over the recent transfer of seven priests who differ with Pope Paul VI's birth-control encyclical.

The organization was begun by officers of the diocesan Christian Family Movement who said they unsuccessfully sought an audience with Bishop James A. McNulty.

Theodore Callisto, vice president of the diocesan CFM, said he and Francis Greune, the president, tried to set up an appointment with the bishop to discuss the transfers, but said they were told by an assistant chancellor that "priest assignments are not the business of the people of the diocese or the CFM."

Two couples who belong to the CFM have publicly resigned from the organization because they "violently object" to the positions taken by the Greunes and Callisto. One of the couples, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jacobi, said:

"We and many other CFM couples support the bishop in this matter. We accept the right of priests to dissent as individuals. However, we cannot accept the right of those priests to teach dissension."

No 'Recriminations'

Cambridge, Mass. — (RNS) — A Catholic theologian made a strong plea here for "patience, charity and understanding" in the debate on Pope Paul VI's encyclical upholding the Church ban on birth control.

Father Richard P. McBrien, professor of theology at Pope John XXIII National Seminary for Delayed Vocations, participated in a television panel discussion with Msgr. George W. Casey of Lexington, Mass., and Dr. John T. Newman, Jr., of the University of California and author of the book, "Contraception."

Warning that the confusion surrounding the encyclical will be compounded "if this interim period is not marked by charity," Father McBrien said "vituperation and recriminations, filippics and fulminations will only serve to compromise the Church's enduring mission to be the sign and principal instruments of God's Kingdom on earth and the future of mankind."

"Objective observers at the Vatican declare that Pope Paul shares to an unusual degree the common concern of all Popes to hand on their office to their successors unimpaired in prestige and importance," Msgr. Casey said.

"There is evidence," he added, "that this compassionate man felt impelled to issue an unbending reassertion of traditional doctrine that bears down heavily on individuals primarily to safeguard authority."

Bishop 'Grateful'

Bristol, England — (RNS) — Anglican Bishop Oliver Tomkins of Bristol in a special article in the September issue of Contact, an interdenominational journal, has declared that no other religious event in years had aroused so much and so deep interest as the Pope's encyclical. He added:

"We can all be grateful that the Pope has reminded the 'whole world' that parenthood is a serious and complex responsibility."

"Those who sneer at Catholics for being 'expected to follow authority like a lot of sheep' had better remember that too many people do in fact follow the fashion of the world like a lot of sheep anyway — and that much of that 'fashion' is based on selfishness and fear."

"A lot of people do not believe that anything can be more important than sex. But all Christians are with the Pope in affirming that what raises us above a farmed level is the recognition that sex is to be ruled and not be a ruler."

2 Views on Encyclical Belgian Bishops

Cardinal O'Boyle

New York — (RNS) — Following is an excerpt from the statement issued by the Belgian Roman Catholic hierarchy on Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control.

Your bishops are deeply conscious of the difficulties experienced by many of the faithful who ask themselves to what extent they are obliged to accept and observe the prescriptions decreed by the Pope.

1. First, every doctrinal declaration of the Church, including those which concern the application of the Gospel doctrine to moral conduct, must be welcomed with the respect and the spirit of receptivity which the authority established by Christ can legitimately claim.

2. If the declaration under consideration is not infallible and therefore irrefragable — as encyclicals generally are not and as *Humanae Vitae*, in fact, is not claimed to be — we are not bound to an unconditional and absolute adherence, such as a dogmatic definition requires.

3. Nevertheless, even in a case where the Pope (or the episcopal college grouped about him) does not use the fullness of the power of teaching, the doctrine which he prescribes, in virtue of the power which is granted to him, requires of themselves, on the part of the faithful, a religious assent of the will and of the intelligence, sustained by the spirit of faith, (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 25 A).

This adherence does not depend so much on the arguments invoked by the declaration as it does on the religious motive appealed to by the authority sacramentally instituted in the Church.

4. If, however, someone, competent in the matter and capable of forming for himself a well-established personal judgment — which necessarily presupposes sufficient information — arrives at other conclusions on certain points after a serious examination before God, he has a right to follow his conscience in this area, provided he remains ready to continue his search loyally.

Even in this case, he must remain sincerely faithful to Christ and to His Church, and recognize respectfully the importance of the supreme magisterium.

5. Finally, when it comes to the concrete application of certain moral prescriptions, it may happen that some of the faithful, because of particular circumstances which appear to them as conflicts of duties, sincerely believe it is impossible to conform to these prescriptions.

6. It must be recognized, according to traditional doctrine, that the final practical rule is dictated by the conscience duly enlightened according to the set of criteria which Gaudium et Spes presents (No. 50, par. 2; No. 51, par. 3), and that judgment on the opportuneness of a new transmission of life belongs ultimately to the married couples themselves, who must decide on it before God.

Washington — (NC) — Following are excerpts from the text of a pastoral instruction (Aug. 31) by Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington to the priests of the Washington archdiocese in regard to "The Exercise of Their Ministry in Regard to *Humanae Vitae*."

1. All priests must accept the fact of the supreme teaching authority of the Roman Pontiff. Therefore, whenever a priest deals with the subject of birth control, he will present the teaching contained in Pope Paul's encyclical *Humanae Vitae* as the authentic and authoritative teaching of the Catholic Church.

2. Especially with regard to any public preaching on this question, priests will not preach opinions opposed to the encyclical. They must present the authentic teaching of the Church in strict harmony with the Holy Father's encyclical and without comments that even risk scandalizing the faithful.

3. As far as teaching is concerned, anyone engaged in this very important apostolate will be conscious of his responsibility toward students, less informed than himself. On the question of birth control, he must at all times be mindful of his obligation not to scandalize the young, and hence he will take great care in stating clearly and unequivocally what is the authentic teaching of the Church.

4. Regarding the hearing of confessions, when questions arise concerning birth control, the confessor must clearly state what the teaching of the Church is. In other words, he must teach that objectively contraception is always wrong.

Moreover, the confessor must counsel and encourage the penitent with regard to subjective factors affecting guilt in accordance with sound principles of pastoral theology concerning difficult cases, just as we have always done.

51 Washington Priests Request Mediation

Washington — (NC) — The 51 Washington priests who have publicly dissented from the Pope's encyclical on birth control have asked Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, to intervene in their dispute on the matter with Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington.

The request was made to Archbishop Dearden in a letter from Father John E. Corrigan, chairman of the Association of Washington Priests.

Father Corrigan said in behalf of the 51 dissenters to whom Cardinal O'Boyle has "threatened suspension" he asked Archbishop Dearden to set up a mediation board to give a "full hearing" to the priests.

involved in the application of Catholic principles on conjugal morality.

"It is his desire that the bishops, the priests, the Christian centers participating in the various Catholic movements and organizations become with joyful submissiveness the apostles of the teaching of Holy Mother Church and be able to find the convincing language that will insure its acceptance."

"May they set themselves the task of presenting this teaching in its true light, that is to say by showing its positive and beneficent aspect. What the Church wants above all is to help Christian couples toward mutual perfection, to purify their love and to appreciate the happiness of a married life lived in the sight of God and in full obedience to His law."

'Secret' Letter Claimed On 'Humanae Vitae'

London — (RNS) — The *Times* of London has made public the text of a secret letter which it said was sent to Catholic bishops before the publication of Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control, warning them that the document would cause negative reactions and urging them to promote a "joyful submissiveness" to the teaching.

According to The *Times*, which said it had received a copy of the letter in French from an "overseas source," the letter was sent to the bishops with an advance copy of the encyclical.

The letter, signed by Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, Vatican Secretary of State, urged the bishops to present the teaching "in its true light" by "showing its positive and beneficent aspect."

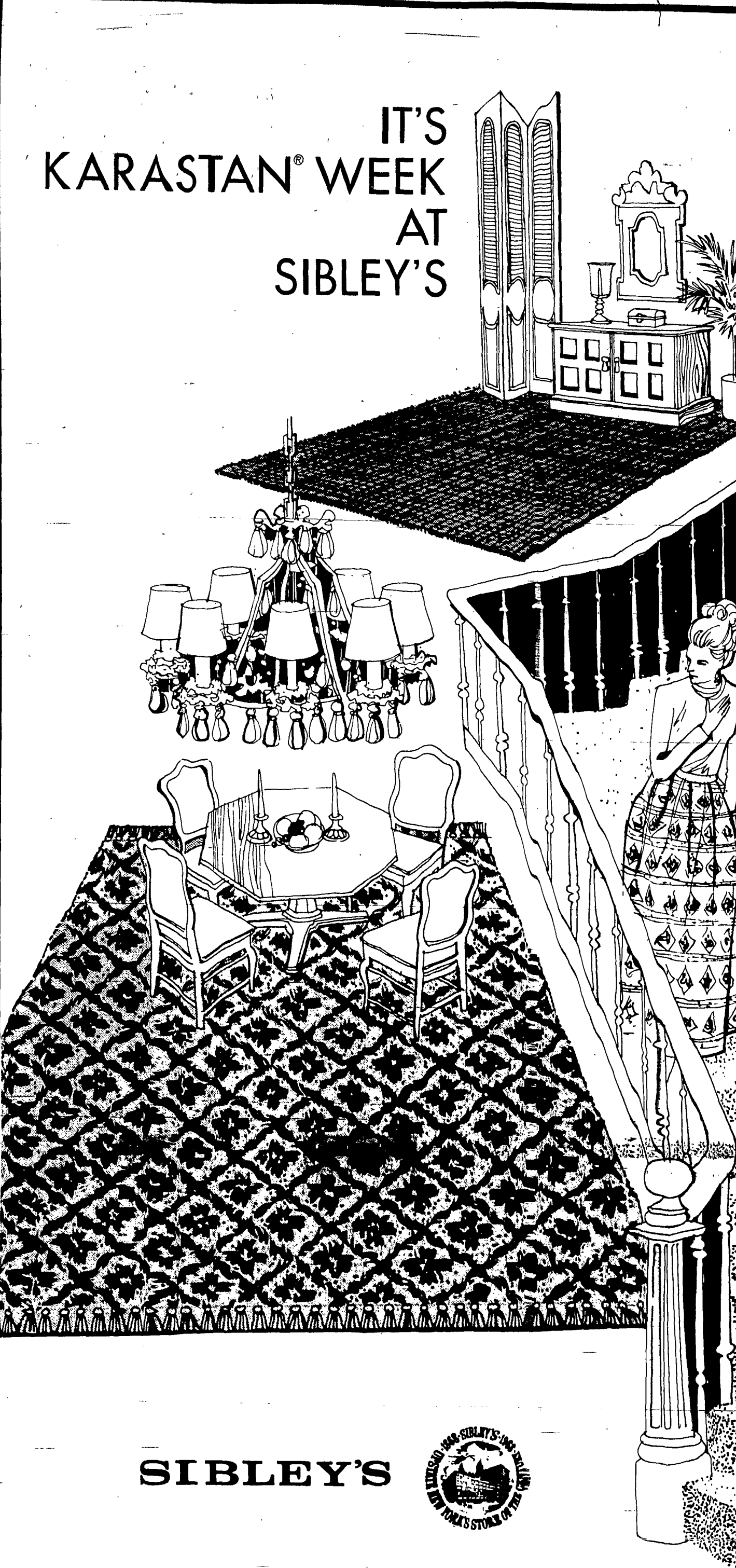
Noting that sometimes "heroic" sacrifices are required by Catholic marital morality, the letter told the bishops to "spur" the laity "to methodical and voluntary efforts at self-discipline and to a more assiduous and confident recourse to the sacraments."

Pope Paul "is informed of the ideas and practices prevalent in contemporary society," the letter said, "and he is well aware of the efforts that will be needed to educate men's minds on this point. He knows what sacrifices — sometimes heroic ones — are in-


COURIER-JOURNAL

Vol. 79 No. 50 — Sept. 13, 1968
Published Weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Single Copy 15c; 1 year Subscription in U.S., \$6.00; Canada, \$7.00; Foreign Countries, \$8.00. Main Office: 35 Seneca Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Second-Class Postage Paid at Rochester, N.Y.

IT'S KARASTAN® WEEK AT SIBLEY'S



SIBLEY'S



Whatever your home decor, if the theme is quality... Karastan® Broadloom gives a stellar performance. It can take the lead in your furnishing scheme with a brilliant splash of color and design or provide a strong supporting role with subtle shadings and motifs. Karastan® always helps make your decorating ideas spring to life. During Karastan® week at Sibley's... see our exciting windows, model rooms and displays that feature the many textures of acrylic, nylon or wool-pile in 39 qualities and over 600 colors. From 8.95 to 29.95 sq. yd. Sibley's Floor Coverings, Third Floor; representative selections at Irondequoit, Southtown, Greece.

Power loomed in the U.S.A.

SIBLEY'S DOWNTOWN OPEN TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 'TIL 9 P.M.
ALL SIBLEY SUBURBAN STORES OPEN MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 'TIL 9:30 P.M.