



### Indian Women at German Conference

Three women from India participate in the Offertory procession during a Mass in the town square in Essen, West Germany, during the biennial Catholic Day (Katholikentag) Congress. The woman at center is a German physician who is a member of a religious order in India. (RNS Photo)

## Religious Journalism Termed Christian 'Organ of Teaching'

Evanston, Ill. — (RNS) — Religious journalism influences the highest councils of churches and has become "an organ of teaching in the Christian church," according to Father Gregory Baum, O.S.A., of St. Michael's College, Toronto, who addressed a seminar — "Toward the Seventies: Issues in Religious Journalism" — on the theological implications of the mass communications media, at Northwestern University.

"Assignment to the religion beat is no longer a punishment. Religion editors in the daily press and in the weekly magazines have considerable influence on the thinking in the churches."

He cited Vatican Council II as "a startling example" of the role played

by religion reporters in influencing ecclesiastical thought.

"Without the press," he said, "the course of the Council would have been quite different. Thanks to the religious journalism, in which all the major papers were involved, there was a perpetual dialogue between the Council and the people."

Journalism has a role to play in divine salvation, he said, because newspapers in a major way "introduce people to religious issues," with even un-churched people being aware of churches and their conflicts through the press.

Referring to religious journalism as an "organ of teaching in the Christian church," Father Baum said

a case in point was the controversy over birth control in Catholicism.

"Without the press the dissenting position would not have had the power it holds in the Church," he said. "But even apart from these special events, contemporary religious journalism involves people in the important religious questions, in the issues of the churches, in the struggle about values."

As regards the future, Father Baum said religious journalism will assume a more important role in the Seventies because the church is becoming a "movement" rather than structured societies whose goals and commitments were "determined by ecclesiastical government."

## 463 U.S. Priests Resign in 1968

Yonkers — (NC) — A listing of 463 U.S. priests who resigned from active ministry in the Church since last January has been compiled by the National Association for Pastoral Renewal.

This compares with a total of 480 priests who resigned in the entire year 1967 — an increase of 31 percent in the monthly rate of resignations, the report said.

The report of the association which has headquarters here is based on 550 replies to a questionnaire mailed to its members. The report does not claim to be complete.

Of the reported 463 resigned priests, 146 are known to have married, 232

are not married and information regarding the marital status of 85 was not reported. It was not possible to ascertain how many of these priests had received ecclesiastical permission to marry, the association said.

The resigned priests include 17 seminary professors, 19 chancery officials, 33 pastors and 228 parish assistants. The report said 54 have been ordained more than 15 years.

The report recommended a study by the U.S. bishops of reasons for the

resignations. It also asked the attitude of the Church toward these men become more Christian and a process of transition to lay life be substituted for the present cumbersome and "degrading process" of laicization. The report said bishops have taken no policy action on these matters.

The National Association for Pastoral Renewal was founded in 1966 to bring open discussion to the issue of optional clerical celibacy. The association claims a membership of nearly 3,000.

### The Pope's Week

Inhambane, Mozambique — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has sent a contribution for the construction of a cathedral here and also sent a special apostolic blessing to the clergy, religious and faithful of the Inhambane diocese. Formed six years ago, the diocese is governed by Portuguese-born Bishop Ernesto Goncalves da Costa, O.F.M.

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has named Bishop Artemio G. Casas of Imus, Philippine Islands, to be auxiliary bishop of Manila. The Pope also named Father Karl Fluggel to be auxiliary bishop of Regensburg, Germany.

Castel Gandolfo — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has deplored the tendency toward "anti-institutionalism" by those who misinterpret the meanings of religious freedom and Church renewal which were clearly outlined during the Second Vatican Council. Addressing the Pastoral Organization of Ecclesiastical Communities during a general audience, Pope Paul said that there is no need for anyone to "walk in the dark" on these matters.

Castel Gandolfo — (NC) — During a general audience here Pope Paul VI assured a group of Czechoslovakian pilgrims that he shares with them the trial their country is undergoing these days. "We understand your feelings and we share in your trial. We pray for you," the Pope said.

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI received in audience here Giovanni Cardinal Urbani, Patriarch of Venice and president of the Italian hierarchy. The cardinal reported on the special meeting of Italian bishops called to discuss the Pope's encyclical, "Of Human Life." A document containing directives to the clergy and laity of Italy on the birth control decision was prepared under the direction of Cardinal Urbani and is expected to be published shortly.



### Guitars at Bishop's Consecration

Seminarists (top photo) play guitars and sing during the consecration of Auxiliary Bishop F. Joseph Gossman in the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. The new prelate (second from left in bottom photo) pauses for a formal portrait with his consecrators (left to right): Bishop Thomas J. Mardaga of Wilmington, Del., Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, head of the Baltimore archdiocese, and Auxiliary Bishop T. Austin Murphy of Baltimore. More than 1,000 persons witnessed the rite which was conducted entirely in English. (RNS Photo)

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