

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Church Paper Chides Bishops

Milwaukee —(RNS)— The Living Church, an Episcopal weekly magazine published here, has taken issue with four Episcopal bishops who signed a statement calling for a government amnesty on behalf of those imprisoned for refusing draft induction.

"We deplore and protest the bishops' adding the prestige of their episcopal office to this statement," a Living Church editorial said.

"What brings on our boil is this insinuating sentence in the statement: 'Political imprisonments are a shame to any land, but a grievous scandal to those who affirm the promise of American democracy.'"

The Living Church maintained that this grouped the United States "with such police states as the Soviet Union in the practice of throwing people into jail if they disagree politically with the ruling powers."

"That is what the term 'political imprisonment' means," it said, "and nobody wanting to be understood should ever use it to mean anything else."

"Men who are in jail for violating the draft law," it said, "are not political prisoners. Whatever the faults of America, it is not a land in which anybody goes to jail for having the wrong politics."

Priests Beat Assembly Charge

Washington — (NC) — Two Catholic priests and a Methodist minister have been acquitted of unlawful assembly charges growing out of a prayer vigil in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The jury took only 25 minutes to free Fathers Andre Bouchard, 30 and Raymond Kemp, 27, of Sts. Paul and Augustine parish and the Rev. Harry C. Kieley, 37, pastor of Dunbarton United Methodist Church here.

They were in a group of 50 persons, who staged a candlelight vigil at midnight April 21 on the U.S. Capitol grounds. Judge Justin L. Edgerton told the jury that disruptive intent had to be proven to sustain a finding of guilty.

N.D. Law Students In London

New York — (NC) — Twenty second-year law students at the University of Notre Dame will start classes Sept. 30 with British law students at University College, University of London.

Prof. Conrad Kellenberg, a former Fulbright scholar and a member of the Notre Dame law faculty, will live with them during their year abroad.

The new program is designed to provide an exchange of views with English law students while meeting all second-year requirements at Notre Dame.

'Embassy' To Be Opened For Poor

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A "Poor People's Embassy" will be established in Washington next year. It will press for reforms in welfare, education, labor, housing and jobs, and coordinate independent programs.

Rudolfo Gonzalez, who gained fame during the Poor People's Campaign this Spring for his efforts in behalf of Mexican-American interests, heads the 15-man board of directors. He said the organization would open offices temporarily in New York City in an effort to induce large foundations to participate. Church-related bodies are expected to give the organization considerable support. Among the sponsoring groups is the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Nuns, Priest Among Protesters Interrupting Evening Mass

St. Cloud, Minn.—(RNS)— About 50 Catholic nuns, seminarians, laymen and a priest interrupted an evening Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral here. They called for immediate dialogue with Bishop George Speltz of St. Cloud and others on such issues as the war, civil rights and poverty. Reaction from the congregation, however, was minimal.

(Bishop George Speltz the next day criticized the group.

"I find the methods and procedure of the protesting group unjustifiable," the head of the St. Cloud Roman Catholic Diocese declared.

"They interrupted a religious service and a peaceable assembly without the courtesy of seeking in advance the permission of the pastor or the bishop."

(He said members of the group protested the Vietnam War "yet they heedlessly violated the rights and prerogatives of their fellowmen gathered in worship in a sanctuary.")

The group rose from the front rows of the cathedral, following litany and offertory, moved solemnly to the front of the sanctuary and read together from a prepared statement:

"We are here to ask everyone to consider, in his or her own conscience, these grave moral problems of our times.

"We have recently read our bishop's stand on the birth control issue. . . . We would urge him to also speak out and focus our attention on such pressing moral issues as:

"The morality of the Vietnamese war.

"The morality of racial discrimination.

"Economic exploitation of the poor.

"The obligations of rich nations, especially ours, towards the poor and emerging nations.

"We urge lay people, our priests and sisters, and our bishop to face these issues in dialogue now. We must publicly give witness to our convictions, and do it in the spirit of love."

Then the group asked the more than 400 persons attending the Mass to stand.

Fewer than a dozen rose to stand. "We came here for Mass," a man called from the rear of the cathedral.

Six persons left the Cathedral.

The protesters had met earlier for discussion of moral issues and said they had decided to give witness to their convictions at the Sunday evening Mass. Spokesmen for the group had notified news media of the planned action well in advance.

Protesters Fell Rector, Take Over Pulpit

Milwaukee—(NC)—About 40 persons—eight of whom were arrested—took part in an anti-war demonstration during Mass last Sunday at St. John's cathedral here.

The demonstrators entered the sanctuary and took over the pulpit to read a statement urging the Church to "actively resist war and racism." One of those arrested was Father Nicholas Riddell, O.C.D., a Carmelite priest who is stationed in the Milwaukee archdiocese.

Msgr. James E. Kelly, 73 year-old rector of St. John's, was pushed to the sanctuary floor during the entrance of the demonstrators into the sanctuary.

In a statement concerning the incident, Archbishop William E. Cousins of Milwaukee said that the "admitted purpose" of the group "was to create a disturbance for the sake of publicity. The news media had already been alerted." The archbishop noted that their provocation included "disruption of Holy Mass, an invasion of the sanctuary and a forceful taking over of the pulpit." Regardless of the cause they have espoused, their actions were disgraceful, unwarranted and completely irreverent.

"And what was accomplished?" the Milwaukee archbishop asked. He continued: "They succeeded in angering a worshipping congregation. They unquestionably alienated many whose sympathies they might have enlisted had other means been used. They will face the justifiable criticism of countless religious people who cannot recognize the profanation of a church as legitimate protest."

Vancouver Priests Support Pope's Ban

Vancouver, B.C. — (NC) — The Vancouver Association of Priests has adopted a statement supporting Pope Paul's ban on birth control and pledging to teach "without ambiguity" the principles contained in the Pope's encyclical, Humanae Vitae.



Latest Fashions for Nuns

A Mundelein College student models a new fashion in nun's habit at a style show staged in Chicago that attracted more than 200 superiors of Catholic religious communities for women. The new designs for nuns featured short skirts, two-piece suits, one-piece dresses, and bolero jackets. The style show commentator described the item which the model is wearing as "a nun's habit styled in contemporary design as part of the trend toward modern dress for Sisters." (RNS)

Jesuit Support 'In Love' Urged For Fr. Berrigan

New York (RNS) — Members of the Society of Jesus in New York Province have been urged to give their support, "in charity and love," to their brother Jesuit, Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

Father Robert A. Mitchell, S.J., head of the province, requested the action in anticipation of Father Berrigan's trial in Maryland, tentatively set for Oct. 7. Very active in the peace movement, Father Daniel Berrigan is associate director for service of Cornell United Religious Work (CURW) at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. He is currently out on bail. In a letter dated Sept 18, the provincial requested "prayers and interest for a brother who is in need." Father Daniel Berrigan was arrested in May along with his brother, Father Philip Berrigan, S.S.J., and seven others when they invaded a Selective Service office in Catonsville, Md., seized draft records and took them to a nearby parking lot and burned them.

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