

# Clergy Called Vital to Fighting Alcoholism

Washington, DC. — (RNS) — The chief clinical chaplain of the Georgian Clinic in Atlanta, famed for its work with alcoholics, said that a new breed of activist minister, instead of being just a "largely untapped source of ancillary helpers in the field," can be the "key professional" in the treatment team to the alcoholic.

Dr. George P. Dominick told a panel on Religion and Church during the 28th International Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism here that by virtue of their training, clergymen "are well able to tolerate and understand the ever-present death wish and self-destructive behavior of the alcoholic."

At issue for many an alcoholic, he continued, is whether he will struggle to commit his life to some constructive purpose, or if he will kill himself by drinking.

"This existential dilemma expresses the spiritual dimension of alcoholism, which

## The Alcoholic... Why

Dr. George P. Dominick made these observations underlying the tensions of the alcoholic, which he termed the "ambivalence about the commitment to life." They are:

- The alcoholic very much wants to be loved and cared for, yet fears that caring means control. Unconsciously therefore, he arranges rejections.
- The alcoholic wants desperately to be strong and independent, but fears that this will cost him love and protection.
- The alcoholic wants nothing less than total success, and since anything else means total failure, he is afraid and fails to act positively.
- The alcoholic wants to change his patterns of living so life may be beautiful, but he draws back, feeling that a familiar failure is less frightening than a venture into the unknown.

benefits significantly from a pastoral approach." Dr. Dominick told the panel.

"The trained clergyman," Dr. Dominick said, "brings to the field of alcoholism an awareness of the person behind the symptoms. He can

get at the central existential issue behind the mask of situational questions and pleas. In his pastoral role, he has a healing orientation."

But the minister's role is uniquely suitable to go beyond the interpersonal relation-

ships and go far into the area of stimulating community action, Dr. Dominick said.

"Being himself a representative of morality, the minister can confront deeply-rooted moralistic prejudice against alcoholism and combat the general indifference and professional pessimism about the treatment of the alcoholic. He can organize the community in order to establish treatment facilities or coordinate efforts by groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous with the work of a private and state medical facility."

The clergyman also can re-examine the resources of his church in promoting supportive groups which can mean a great deal to the alcoholic or to his family. "Regularly," he said, "the minister is contacted by a family long before the alcoholic is willing to request help for himself. This suggests that the clergyman can plan a unique role in early intervention in the alcoholic process."

Since 1964, 1,312 ministers

and theological students have participated in the clergy-training program. There are 26 theologians engaged in full-time internship training at all times.

"The background for this project includes the familiar statistics indicating that 42 per cent of emotionally-troubled people first turn for help to their minister or priest. Also, the clergyman is one of the few persons in any community who may approach a troubled home without first being invited," Dr. Dominick said.

The Georgian Clinic's interdisciplinary staff consists of a blending of medicine, psychology and theology, he told the panelists. "From the early days of staff development, the trained clergyman has been a significant member of the team. Today, clergymen constitute the majority of our group leaders. Since 1953, clergymen have played a valuable guiding role in the development of the clinic's philosophy and program."

## Father Ferrer Granted Visa for Return to India

Madrid — (RNS) — Father Vincent Ferrer, S.J., 47, internationally famous missionary who was obliged to leave India last June, has been given a residence visa by the Indian Embassy here, an embassy spokesman said.

The visa will allow Father Ferrer to remain in India indefinitely, the spokesman said. Unconfirmed reports here and in other countries had indicated that the missionary, who had been exiled from Maharashtra State after friction with political leaders, might not be allowed to return to India.

After his expulsion from Maharashtra, Father Ferrer had been invited to work in several other Indian states. The federal government had asked him, however, to leave the country for several months to let the controversy surrounding him die down.

The priest, an expert on farming and irrigation, had helped thousands of farmers to improve their crops and escape from debt through cooperative action. It is widely believed in India that many of the accusations against him were inspired by money-lenders whose profits he reduced.

He had originally been ordered expelled not only from Maharashtra but from all of India. The change of policy which permitted him to plan an eventual return to another part of the country was reportedly due in large measure to the personal intervention of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

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## McNamara Presses Birth Control Work

McNAMARA PRESSES BIRTH CONTROL WORK BY JOHN R. SULLIVAN NC News Service

Washington — Robert S. McNamara, former Secretary of Defense who now heads the World Bank, has never been one to duck a controversy.

It was therefore no surprise when McNamara used his first public address since he assumed the World Bank post six months ago to say that "the population explosion... by holding back the advance-

ment of the poor, is blowing apart the rich and the poor and widening the already dangerous gap between them."

This plea for increased international family planning efforts came at the 23rd joint annual meeting of the boards of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The speech could have sparked a bitter controversy, in the light of the Pope's encyclical, since the document was taken as an attempt to

have governments adopt for themselves the rules laid down for Catholics.

Instead of controversy, however, McNamara's speech could well provide a vehicle for expanding international discussion of means to cope with the population explosion which are acceptable to all.

McNamara, who earned a reputation for bluntness and impeccable fact-gathering during his seven years as defense secretary, told the meeting

that the effects of the population explosion—brought about not by higher birth rates, but by lower death rates—make it "impossible for any of us (at the World Bank) to brush the subject aside."

"The underdeveloped countries generally confront problems posed by presently rapid rates of population growth, resulting, from overdue, essentially beneficial but sudden declines in death rates."

It cited as effects of a rapid

population growth malnutrition, poor housing, lack of education, unemployment and restricted savings to invest in production facilities.

McNamara pointedly avoided spelling out what the solution is. Instead, he outlined what he felt the World Bank should do:

"Let the developing nations know the extent to which rapid population growth slows down their potential development, and that, in consequence, the optimum employment of the world's scarce development funds requires attention to this problem.

"Seek opportunities to finance facilities required by our member countries to carry out family planning programs.

"Join with others in programs of research to determine the most effective methods of family planning and of national administration of population control programs."

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## Credibility Gap Among Religious?

River Forest, Ill. — (NC) The provincial of the New York province of the Dominican Order said "there is a serious credibility gap that needs to be closed" between older and younger members of religious orders.

Father Kenneth Sullivan, O.P., and more than 40 other Dominican provincials includ-

ing Father Aniceto Fernandez, O.P., master general of the Order, were concluding the second month of meetings of the order's general chapter at the Aquinas Institute of Philosophy here.

Father Georges Perrault, O.P., provincial of the 600-member Canadian province, summarizing the results of a recent study of 70,000 men and women religious in his country, cited these "new tendencies" in the religious life:

• The search for authenticity. There is an increasing insistence that people and institutions really become what they profess to be. The al-

ternative is seen as hypocrisy.

• The importance and development of the person. Younger religious tend to stress that laws and institutions should promote and not suppress personal development.

• A diffidence toward institutions. The necessity of structures is acknowledged but it is felt their role should be kept to a minimum so as not to stifle freedom and spontaneity.

"Community life is our salvation," Father Sullivan said. "It is our answer to the difficulties of ecology, because we derive from our

communities the things we would have a right to in marriage — a shared life and an affectionate life."

Father Sullivan acknowledged there is dissatisfaction among religious with laws and regulations which seem unrelated to contemporary conditions. He said young priests in his province "are zealous and want to do great things, but they often have little appreciation for the past and for traditions.

"They are searching and asking fundamental questions, which will lead them to rediscover some traditional values in contemporary light," he claimed.

### Cardinal Felici Hits Dissenters

### From Encyclical

Vatican City — Pericle Cardinal Felici, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law, has reprimanded theologians and individual bishops who continued to express their own evaluations and guidance on birth control and contradict Pope Paul VI's teachings.

Writing in L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican City newspaper, Cardinal Felici said: "Let us point out that 'some' bishops are not 'in complete' which, together with the Pope, and never without him, and under his guidance and authority, has the complete and universal magisterium," he said.

"Conscience, according to the clear teaching of ecclesiastical tradition and of the Second Vatican Council itself, must be illumined and formed according to the remote objective norm, which is the law of God interpreted where necessary by the magisterium of the Church."

### Cardinal Heenan Denies 'Revolt'

London — (RNS) — John Cardinal Heenan denied here that there is "a revolt" by Roman Catholic clergy in England and Wales over the papal encyclical on birth control.

Acknowledging that the document has caused a great deal of disappointment because it has made no change in traditional teaching, the Archbishop of Westminster conceded that there had been a "certain disturbance" in the ranks of the clergy, which was "understandable."

"For one priest who has proclaimed dissent there are 50 content to accept the Pope's decision. There are other priests who were disappointed by the decision.

"The reactions of millions of Catholics who expected no change and would have been scandalized by a change have not been very widely reported. The critics of the Pope have been given exclusive publicity. The result is a misleading picture of disunity, especially among the clergy."

Cardinal Heenan stressed that a priest had the right to speak what he believes but that "no priest has the right to go into the pulpit and denounce the Pope's encyclical."

"A priest is not at liberty to contradict the Holy Father in his public teaching," the cardinal said. "There is a difference in a man's official duty as a priest and his views in private conversation."

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