Bishops Hear Barbara Ward

Dr. Barbara Ward (Lady Jackson) chats with bishops and a New York City official at a joint meeting of prelates of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada. Dr. Ward, an economist and a Roman Catholic layman, told the bishops in Augusta that "parents' choice" is the only responsible answer in family planning. Pictured left to right, are Bishop Ernest S. Reed of Ottawa, Ont.; Dr. Ward; William Booth, chairman of the New York City Commission on Human Relations, and Episcopal Presiding Bishop John E. Hines. Mr. Booth shared the platform with Dr. Ward, noted Catholic economist. (RNS)

Barbara Ward on Family:

Parents Must Choose

Augusta, Me. — (NC) — All Christians, regardless of their views on various means of contraception, should work towards world development which will provide all parents with the environment in which to make responsible choices on family size, a prominent Catholic laywoman, Dr. Barbara Ward, said here.

She stressed "parental choice" as the "ultimate and responsible factor" in determining family size, according to news reports of her talk before the meeting of the Bishops of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada.

The English economist (in private life Lady Jackson) is currently serving as Albert Scweitzer professor of international economic development at Columbia University. She is a member of the Papal Commission on World Justice and Peace.

"However much Christians may be divided on permissible methods of birth control, they can all work together to support two vital principles.

"The first is that the state must scrupulously respect the parents' right to decide the size of their family according to their own convictions and conscience.

"The second is that all governments must work to create an economic and social environment in which the formation of stable unions is encouraged and families are guaranteed their basic needs for food, shelter, health, education and employment.

"In view of the tremendous increase in the world population this task demands a wholly new effort on the part of all Christians to support and enlarge programs both national and international for growth and development."

College Scores 'First', Returns Money to U.S.

Albuquerque, N.M. —(RNS) — A Catholic university here has announced what some observers called "an institution first." The University of Albuquerque is voluntarily returning grant money to the federal government.

Sister Marilyn Doiron, president of the university, announced that a grant of $37,766, awarded to the institution for construction of a faculty office building, is being returned.

A decision not to go ahead with construction resulted from recent studies of the physical needs of the university. The studies came in the wake of changes in the administrative structure at the university and a revamping of its academic schedule for the coming fall term.

Pope, Patriarch Exchange Notes

Vatican City — (RNS)—Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodoxy, have exchanged greetings marking the first anniversary of the Patriarch's 1967 visit to the Vatican.

In a telegram to the Patriarch, Pope Paul said; "On the anniversary for Your Holiness' unforgettable visit, we are near you in prayers, thanking God for this meeting and asking Him to guide and strengthen us on the path of communion in Him."

The Patriarch's telegram to the Pope recalled the kiss of peace exchanged at their meeting and the friendly welcome extended by the clergy and people of Rome. It concluded with hopes for the day when Catholics and Orthodoxy may "glorify God in a common liturgy and a common form of Communion."

What Now for Biafra's Children?

By JOHN R. SULLIVAN
(NC News Service)

Sao Tome — After two or three days, the children can walk again — not too much, but a little. Their age, which makes them so helpless, is an asset.

These are the Biafran children who have been brought to this Portuguese island from their homeland near-dead from malnutrition and its side effects.

The doctors and nurses who help them — some Portuguese, some Irish, some Biafran — have found, however, that they can survive.

But they need blood transfusions, shots of vitamins, iron and protein — and a long rest.

There are about 140 Biafran children now on the island. The last group arrived at the beginning of October. More will come in a week or so.

Meanwhile those who are already here are treated in two hospitals: the Sao Tome municipal hospital, where they are first taken for intensive treatment, and Sao Antonio Clinic, a recuperation center operated by Irish nuns.

Two Biafran nurses spend their days shuttling between the two hospitals, helping to keep records, talking to the children, serving as a major link between what is left of their families in Biafra — many children are orphans —and the children.

When they arrive on one of the night flights the children are often helpless. Others are listless. Some have the reddish hair and swollen feet and ankles of kwashiorkor — severe protein deficiency—and nearly all show some of the obvious effects of hunger: the running sores and swollen stomachs.

The sickets receive blood tranfusions. All receive shots of vitamins and protein. And, of course, they are fed regularly — meat, fish, milk, among other things, and a sticky mixture of malt, fish oil and vitamin concentrates which they clamor for.

They also clamor for — and cannot get enough — attention. Visitors, especially if they carry cameras, are mobbed by children. They bring small chairs and when the visitor sits down, they climb in his lap. Another will kick a soccer ball, inviting a brief game; the children are more than a match for their visitors.

The nuns shrug and smile, plucking first one, then another out of the crowd to have their sores dressed, or to receive vitamin shots.

But while some recover quickly, others do not, or continue to show the effects of starvation.

A little boy, known only by the number which all the children wear on brass tags on their wrists, sits on the floor of the receiving hospital's porch.

He is 4, says the Biafran nurse. He looks perhaps 2; he is small, thin, and it is obviously still an effort to walk although he has been receiving intensive treatment for 10 days. So he sits and looks curiously at the visitors, but does not join in the clamor of the others to have their pictures taken.

Even if all these children now on Sao Tome recover, their future remains doubtful. Will they be kept here, out of the danger of war in their homeland? It would be difficult to send them back into the same cycle of starvation and flight from the guns.

For many, it would probably be the best thing; their families cannot support them, and some have no immediate relatives.

But where will they go when more children are brought from Biafra, as they will be within the next few days?

Should they be sent back home in order to bolster the morale of other Biafrans? It is said that in the villages rumors are spreading that the children have been taken as slaves, or as hostages. The Irish priests who work in Biafra come occasionally on the night flights and stay for a day or so to talk to the children and the nurses. They go back with a word for this or that family, assurances for the village chiefs. They hope the rumors will die.

Father Anthony Byrne, the representative of Caritas Internationalis here in Sao Tome, feels some attempt should be made to return some children to Biafra.

Bishop Urges U.S. To Help Biafrans

New York — (RNS) — A Catholic bishop told several hundred persons in St. Patrick's Cathedral here that the American government must "shed the shackles of procrastination" and aid the starving thousands in Biafra.

Bishop Edward E. Swanstrom made his dramatic appeal to the Johnson Administration "to move swiftly" at a special ecumenical service following a 24-hour vigil sponsored by the American Committee to Keep Biafra Alive.

The bishop, who is executive director of Catholic Relief Services, said, "The lives of men, women and children are more important than any political and economic considerations."

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a symphonic program of
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William Walton's "Partita for Orchestra"
and new works by
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William Ferris
conducted by the composers
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By JOHN A. GR
(NC News Se

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