

**AROUND THE WORLD**



**Give 'Justice, Not Alms,' French Told**

Paris — (NC) — France's responsibility to developing nations was stressed in a speech to French parliament members by Archbishop Francois Marty of Paris.

At a Mass for the opening of parliament Oct. 16, Archbishop Marty emphasized the necessity of a triple reform: "A transformation of structures, an evolution of mentalities, a conversion of heart."

"It is greatly to be regretted that participation in the development of peoples is still too often considered as being of the order of gift-giving and not of sharing, of almsgiving and not of justice, of immediate interests and not of love," Archbishop Marty said.

"A people that cuts back on aid to developing nations is, I believe, a people that is mortgaging the future."

**Catholics Seek Divorce Views**

Rome — (RNS) — Catholic Action of Italy, in a statement to the Italian government, said that it approved the idea of a national referendum on the legalization of divorce.

Reiterating its firm opposition to divorce, the organization said that it was right to have a referendum so that "everybody, in favor of divorce or not, may loyally accept with a quiet conscience the clear and direct expression of the popular will."

**Catholics, Anglicans Talk Theology**

Glasgow — (NC) — For the first time, the Catholic Church in Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal (Anglican) Church have met formally to discuss theological issues.

Clergy and lay persons from both churches met here to study "Baptism and Its Place in the Church." The delegates have been formed into regional groups for further talks. Five meetings on the practice and theology of baptism are to be held before May, 1969.

**Laity Council Reports to Pope**

Vatican City — (NC) — Maurice Cardinal Roy of Quebec, president of the Vatican Council of the Laity, has given Pope Paul VI a report on the council's discussion of the Pope's birth control encyclical *Humanae Vitae*.

The council decided at its recent meeting that varied response and reaction in the members' countries should be submitted to the Pope.

(A well-informed person close to the Papal Secretariat of State observed that officials of the secretariat at first had not kept the Pope fully informed on the extent and strength of opposition to his encyclical, and that he himself had ordered a more detailed account of what in fact was happening.)

**Vatican-Israel Diplomacy Favored**

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Franz Cardinal Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, was quoted in the local press as saying that he favored the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel.

Cardinal Koenig visited the traditional holy places here, a kibbutz and the shrine where the Dead Sea Scrolls are preserved.



Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, was welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd on his arrival in Rome for his first visit in three years. The cardinal, who is expected to stay in Rome for several weeks, will confer with Pope Paul VI and Vatican officials on the condition of the Church in Poland.

**Birth Control Result**

**Taiwan Baptisms Drop Sharply**

By FATHER IVAR McGRATH, S.S.C. Taipei, Taiwan — (NC) — Priests here have little doubt that the government-promoted birth control program is the cause of decreased infant baptisms in Taiwan.

The 1967-1968 figure of 5,863 infant baptisms is the lowest recorded since 1955-1956, when there were 7,945 infant baptisms though Catholics then numbered only slightly more than 80,000. Today Catholics in Taiwan total more than 300,000.

Father Francis Suen of the Catholic Central Bureau, who released this year's statistics, said birth control was responsible for the low figure for infant baptisms.

The largest number of infant baptisms, 9,557, was recorded in 1962-1963. That year there were more than 18,000 adult baptisms and while the drop in subsequent years of adult converts could account

for some diminution of infant baptisms, it does not by any means explain the considerable decrease of the last four years during which the Catholic community added 50,000 persons.

"We had only three infant baptisms during the last year," said Father Patrick Donnelly, M.M., of Philadelphia, pastor of Twin Waters, a rural parish in the central Taiwan diocese of Taichung. "Many women do not go to confession because they use

artificial means to prevent conception."

Twin Waters has a Catholic population of some 600.

Dr. Hsu Tzu-chiu, director of the Provincial Department of Health, said recently that "birth control in Taiwan has scored impressive success during the past four years."

The natural growth in Taiwan has dropped to 2.3 per cent, down from 3.02 per cent four years ago, according to Dr. Hsu.

**Father Kueng Named To Theological Post**

Basel, Switzerland — (NC) — In an unprecedented ecumenical move, the local cantonal government has appointed Father Hans Kueng, controversial Swiss-born Catholic theologian, as guest professor of systematic theology in the department of Protestant theology at the University of Basel for the 1969 summer semester.

The prominent Protestant theologian, Karl Barth, once held the chair to which Father Kueng, a friend of Barth, has been appointed.

Father Kueng, who teaches dogma at Tuebingen University in Germany, attracted considerable attention for his book, "The Church," and other writings. Last June he confirmed that he had been summoned to Rome by Franjo Cardinal Seper, prefect of the Doctrinal Congregation, to discuss "The Church," but

said he could not go then for lack of time.

"The Church" has been attacked in certain Catholic circles for some of its ideas on the papacy and as an insult to the Pope.

Father Kueng has confirmed his readiness to go to Rome to discuss the book and has asked that he be allowed to see the dossier maintained there on him.

The priest has also said that Vatican officials had invited him to fix his own date for the meeting, for which they would pay expenses. He said that the exact conditions of the meeting had not yet been defined but that he also has been asked to give the names of three competent spokesmen. The Vatican has not yet decided whether Father Kueng is entitled to consult his dossier.

**Lords Reform: 16 Bishops**

London — (RNS) — The Church of England will lose ten of its bishops' seats in the House of Lords if proposals for reforming Parliament's upper house are approved, as generally expected.

At present, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the 24 senior dioceses are entitled to vote in Lords. The Labor government would reduce this representation under a gradual process to 16.

Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury said, "I find the Prime Minister's proposals for the bishops acceptable. I hope that for the time being they will be agreed to by both Church and state."

What effect this reduction would have when major social and moral issues are before the house remains to be seen. But just as large numbers of "temporal" peers often do not attend major debates, bishops are often absent.

The 16 bishops would always include the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishops of London, Durham and Winchester, the five senior dioceses in terms of precedence.

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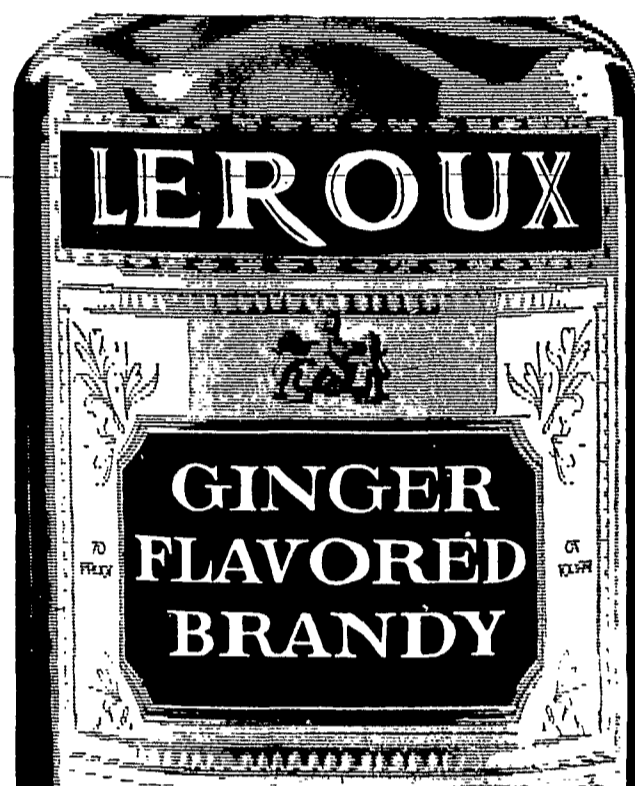
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