

Church Hits Vandalism

Brooklyn, N.Y. — (NC) — Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of Brooklyn and other religious leaders here have issued a joint statement deploring the recent desecration of a Jewish synagogue. It was the third act of vandalism at a house of worship in the New York metropolitan area in a week.

In addition to Bishop Mugavero, the statement was signed by Episcopal Suffragan Bishop Richard Martin of Long Island; the Rev. Robert W. Howard, president of the Brooklyn division, Protestant Council of the City of New York; and Rabbi Kurt Klappholz, president of the Brooklyn Board of Rabbis.

The statement said: "Our religious tradition teaches us that the love of God cannot be separated from the love of our neighbor, nor from respect for our neighbor's person, dignity, feelings and rights.

"We, therefore, condemn as contrary to the very heart of our religion, as well as contrary to our American heritage, irresponsible and hateful attempts to hurt our neighbors of whatever faith, in that which they hold most sacred, their houses of religious worship and study."

Ecumenist Scores Churches' 'Hypocrisy'

Rome — (RNS) — Churches must "abandon their comfortable hypocrisy" before they can confront "the legitimate protests of youth," Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, said here.

Dr. Blake, in Rome for ecumenical discussions, was interviewed by a new Catholic newspaper, *Avenire*.

He said that his remark on "comfortable hypocrisy" applies "as much to governments and universities as to the World Council of Churches."

Violence is always bad, he said, but the violence of tyrannical governments is worse than that of poor people fighting for justice.

Paris Priests Asked To Suggest Reforms

Paris — (RNS) — Archbishop Francois Marty of Paris has asked his clergy to submit suggestions for changes in pastoral approaches and ecclesiastical structures.

The suggestions should be sent to him by next January, the archbishop said in a letter to the priests, so that plans can be made for definite action.

Taxpayers Get Warning On Closing of Schools

(Continued from Page 1)

the Catholic high schools would almost automatically follow suit because they "would lose their source of students".

This move would force nearly 10,000 high schoolers in the diocese to find seats in the public schools.

Urging the Rochester taxpayers to get ready for a tax-rise if the closing of Catholic schools added 18,000 students to the city school system, Msgr. Roche predicted a rise of \$20.4 million in the annual city school budget, without even providing the buildings to house the students.

New schools to accommodate the former parochial schoolers would cost the city taxpayers another \$40 million, he estimated. Some parishes might sell or rent their school plant to the city, but Msgr. Roche believes the churches would retain most parochial school properties for religion classes.

The hard facts of the financial

squeeze hurting the church schools can be understood, Msgr. Roche told the *Democrat and Chronicle* readers, by comparison with the money troubles hurting the public schools.

In 1964-65 the Rochester city school budget was \$34.4 million for 45,152 students. Four years later, for only 1,147 more pupils (a total of 46,299) the budget had jumped to \$54.2 million. The painful increase of \$20 million had come not from serving more children but from the higher salaries, more personnel required, advanced equipment and auxiliary services, Miss Wilson reported.

The interview revealed to the general public facts which are common knowledge to most Catholics that parish collections, without diocesan help, pay the parochial school bills; that the services of the teaching Sisters, at salaries of only \$1,375 a year have been essential to low school overhead; that a decline of vocations and shifting of Sisters to non-school work requires the employment of 700 lay teachers whose salaries start at \$5,500.

Japanese Bishops Issue Statement on Encyclical

Tokyo — (NC) — A person seeking to obey Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control but unable to do so is not separated from the love of God, the Japanese Bishops' Conference has said.

After their meeting here, the bishops issued a statement expressing their awareness that the observance of *Humanae Vitae* will create difficulties for many married people.

"In such cases," they said, "if, while exerting all goodwill to be obedient to the encyclical, one is unable to follow it in some point on account of unavoidable actual and objective circumstances, the faithful should not think they have been separated from the love of God."

In the statement, entitled "Pastoral Note of the Japan Bishops' Conference on the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*," the prelates said:

"As the Pope has published the encyclical by the authority of his teaching office, Catholics must receive it with the spirit of obedience. Therefore it is necessary to read it carefully and to understand its contents correctly.

"Catholic spouses should endeavor to practice this doctrine faithfully in their married life, obtaining God's help for this by fervent prayer and the sacraments, especially through

the Holy Eucharist. Furthermore, they should keep in mind that married life in conformity to God's will always demands some sacrifices and that because of these sacrifices married life becomes more and more fruitful."

"They must strive to deepen their trust toward God and to participate fervently in the life of the Church and in the sacraments. In these cases priests, becoming well acquainted with the actual situation of the faithful, will show sympathy and understanding of their various problems and anxieties of conscience and will assist them to preserve their trust and confidence in Our Lord.

"However, it goes without saying that regardless of any circumstances, if conception has taken place, there is the obligation to respect that life."

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Sicilian Calm Pope's Wish

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has announced that he is praying for the return of "peace, harmony and calm" to the Italian island of Sicily, which has been torn by disorders following the shooting and killing of two land workers during a demonstration on Dec. 1.

The Pope spoke on the Sicilian situation during his weekly general audience (Dec. 4). As he spoke, students and workers in Rome were preparing for a general strike on Dec. 5.

Italy has been experiencing widespread civil unrest, partly brought on by the political crisis which has left the nation without a government since mid-November and also by stepped-up demands for economic reforms.

Bishop Asks Vote In Grape Issue

Oakland, Calif. — (RNS) — The Bishop of Oakland has called for "impartially supervised elections" among farm workers here as a means of settling the controversy of union representation in the California grape industry.

Bishop Floyd L. Begin noted that "table grape growers maintain that non-striking workers have repudiated the farm workers union" which is seeking to organize the industry and has won wide support through a boycott of California table grapes.

"Continued refusal to hold such an election" on the part of the growers, the bishop said, "can only question the integrity of the growers' contention and induce more and more people to support the boycott."

The Catholic bishops of the U.S. at their recent meeting in Washington, the prelate said, had endorsed the "legitimate demand of farm workers for legislative protection of the natural right to organize for purposes of collective bargaining."

Requiem Mass Held For Franciscan, 90

Bulter, N.J. — (NC) — Requiem Mass for Father James Keenan, O.F.M., 90, described as having been the oldest active Franciscan priest in the country, was offered (Dec. 5) in St. Anthony's church here. He died (Dec. 2) at St. Anthony's monastery.

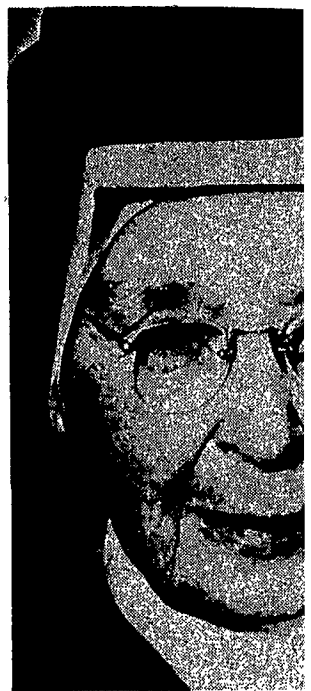
A native of New York City, he joined the Franciscans in 1897 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1903. For more than a half-century he taught mathematics at St. Bonaventure (N.Y.) University, where he was a sports enthusiast and served as manager of the college football team.



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The Hunt sisters, who once again at Villa S were all three station-erine (left) and Sister Hunt) has served in

Vocational

They Rise Behind

NC News Service

Cincinnati — Religious are on the rise behind the tain, in developing nations and Asia — but are declining in the United States, Canada and Europe.

The observation was a study of religious vocations issued to the Council of the International Union of Superiors General in Rome.

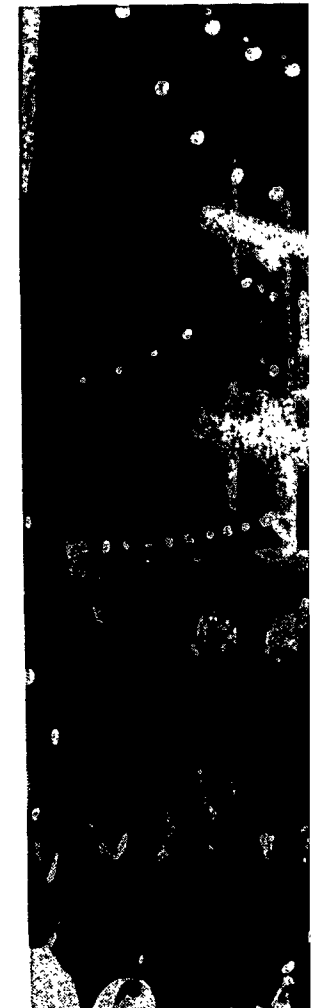
Mother General Mary O Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati of two U.S. representatives Rome meeting, discussed the opposite trends during view at the Mount St. Joseph house of the sisterhood.

"In countries where people suffered great hardships, there is oppression of religious life, vocations are scarce," Mother Mary O said. "I feel there is something learned from this," she must make religious life appealing."

She compared the increasing vocations in Iron Curtain nations with the declining religion and religious v Ireland during the century religious persecution there.

Mother Mary Omer, of the U.S. Conference of Superiors of Women, said women from Iron Curtain are "tremendous women" to possess a "stronger mission."

Among the reasons of superiors at the Rome



In comparison with brighter look for the above view of shop Alle. The Commun reduced its pressure

A Look

Warsaw — (RNS) — a long, long season in continues as a major despite a Communist r promotes atheism.

For Protestants and Christmas begins on Dec of St. Nicholas. It is a changing of gifts. The Christmas on Dec. 25.

But for Orthodox Christmas Eastern Poland, the birth observed on Jan. 6. The comes from calendar var-olics and Protestants ob as Epiphany.

Christmas trees, extra in Poland, are usual on Jan. 7 although Ca continue the festival until on Feb. 2.

Stores and shops are orated and packed with St. Nicholas Day. Trees city squares and in vil-

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