



Modern 'Miracle' in Korea

Sister Mary Benignus, M.D., examines a smiling and happy July Kim (right) in the hospital operated by the Columban Sisters in Mokpo, Korea. Six months earlier (left), the situation was stark and bleak for 2-year-old Julie. At that time the child weighed 7 pounds and was not expected to live when she was found abandoned on the streets of Mokpo and brought to the hospital. According to the Columban Sisters, medicines donated in America played a major role in this miracle. (RNS)

Pope's Declaration Commended

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI's promise that he would trust to Christ rather than take any sensational action against the Church's tendency toward self-destruction is destined to become one of the most significant statements of his pontificate, according to the Vatican City weekly, *L'Osservatore della Domenica*.

"It seems to us that these words are destined to remain among the most significant of this pontificate, to mark a sorrowful and glorious moment in the history of the Church,"

wrote Federico Allessandrini, associate editor of *L'Osservatore*.

Allessandrini was referring to the Pope's declaration (Dec. 7) in which the Pontiff declared that "the church finds itself in an hour of disquiet, one might even say self-demolition." The Pope was referring to what he called the "interior upheaval" that has occurred since Vatican Council II.

The Pope was quoted from the Vatican City daily, *L'Osservatore Romano*, as saying he would refrain from any "sensational gestures" in

this matter and instead rely on the "confidence of Jesus Christ, on whom more than on any other His Church depends."

Allessandrini said: "The Pope said he would not consider following any other way than that of Jesus Christ. This does not mean, of course, that things should be allowed to go the way they want to go, renouncing the mandate to teach." But in a more positive sense, said Allessandrini, the Pope's words will remind Catholics of the importance of a "spirit of service" to God and to man.

Cardinal Heenan Clarifies Remarks

By John A. Greaves

London — (NC) — Expressing concern over the apparently widespread misinterpretation of statements he made in a television interview (Dec. 6) on the conscience and the use of contraceptives, John Cardinal Heenan of Westminster has issued extracts from the recording of the interview.

In issuing the extracts Cardinal Heenan said he recognizes that the press was able to report only a small part of the interview, but added that some "isolated" quotations have led some who did not see the program to think that he had told Catholics to ignore the encyclical and follow their consciences.

Asked by television interviewer David Frost if the Church would not interfere if a couple decides on serious ground of conscience to use contraceptives, Cardinal Heenan replied:

The teaching of the Church is very clear. Every man is bound to follow his conscience. This is true even if his conscience is in error. This is a basic teaching of the Church, that every man—the Pope, you and I—everyone, must follow his conscience.

"Now it is the duty of a Catholic to inform his conscience, but it could easily happen, particularly after this long period of dispute and doubt, that a couple might say conscientiously, 'I am quite sure that this is the right thing for me to do.' If it can be

said conscientiously, 'This is what I must do,' then, of course, they must follow their conscience. There is not a dispute about this."

Frost then asked: "And if they go to their priest and say that they are doing precisely that what should the priest say in reply?"

Cardinal Heenan replied: "God bless you. If they are really following their conscience then in the sight of God that is all that matters. The bishops, the priests, the Pope do not matter compared with God. Every person is really dealing with Almighty God."

Asked if in such a case the priest should not refuse the sacraments, the cardinal said "Of course not. In the pastoral letter I wrote immediately after the encyclical was published I insisted on this. I wrote: 'Do not let this prevent you from receiving the sacraments.'"

Mr. Frost: Do you think that the Pope—a Pope—will ever change the situation so that some means of artificial contraception is made acceptable? Do you believe that will ever happen?

Cardinal: I believe that in measurable time—five or ten years—everybody will accept what the Pope has said.

I'll explain exactly what I mean. The whole scientific trend is towards the use of natural rhythms for birth control, for family planning. When you consider what has happened—this is not a new problem as you

know, the problem is older than Christianity. They have used throughout history various methods of contraception. Taking them in the order which is least desirable and more remote from nature—infanticide which was the first—that was quite common in the old days and not so long ago in the Far East they exposed babies, particularly female babies—abandoned them—and in other parts of the world too. Infanticide is not acceptable in the west nor will it ever be. Next abortion—incidentally where contraception is the highest, abortion is the highest too, even in our own time. Then sterilization, interuterine devices, condoms, caps, sheaths, jellies—all the rest come next. Then the pill.

Now I believe the reason why people took the pill is that it is the most natural thing. It doesn't seem to interfere with the natural way of intercourse. I am quite sure that is the reason why the pill has become so popular. I believe that in days when we can transplant hearts and fly to the moon it should be possible for the doctors and scientists to discover a very easy way of knowing what is the safe period.

I would guess—it is only a guess—that within measurable time they will discover a simple way of deciding whether there is any danger of pregnancy so that a woman will know for certain that apart from five days when abstinence will be called for intercourse can take place without the likelihood of conception taking place. There is a great deal of research going on.

Cardinal Wyszynski Back in Poland

Warsaw — (RNS) — Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, and five other bishops were greeted on their return here from Rome by more than a thousand Catholics who waited several hours in bitter cold for the late arrival of their train.

Numerous priests and nuns among the faithful began to chant a traditional hymn of greeting as the prelates arrived. The song expresses the hope, "May he live a hundred years."

Milliamen maintained order discreetly and did not interfere with the demonstration of loyalty for the Catholic leader who has become a symbol of the Church's power against the Communist regime.

'O Death, Where Is Thy Sting?'

London — (RNS) — Recounting his close encounter with death, John Cardinal Heenan said, "I only hope that the real thing is as good as the trial run."

The Archbishop of Westminster, during a London television interview, described his feelings during a recent illness when he believed he was dying.

"I was very surprised," he said, "because I had always imagined that death would be rather frightening—the idea that I would have to answer for all that I have done wrong."

"But to my astonishment," he continued, "I found that when I was very

near death I was first of all very calm (and) completely untroubled."

"I felt tremendous peace of soul," he added, "and God was very good." The prelate said that he did not remember all the sins of his life at that time, although he could now recall them.

Cardinal Heenan said that God "did not allow me to think of all the nasty things and so it was a wonderful experience . . . I have not fixed a date for the real thing but I hope it will be as nice as that."

"I now have no fear of any kind of death," Cardinal Heenan said, "having seen how lovely it can be."

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