

Challenge to Authority Cited

Religious Trends Listed for 1968

Syracuse, N.Y. — (RNS) — Selecting trends in the 1968 religious news rather than, as in previous years, the top news stories, students in the Religious Journalism Program at Syracuse University School of Journalism here sought to show the significance of religious action and thought.

Heading the list of significant trends was the exceptional questioning and challenging of authority within the Roman Catholic Church.

Although this crisis emerged with the publication of Pope Paul's encyclical "Of Human Life," the students held, the pastoral letters of various national hierarchies, the dissent of lay people, clergy, and theologians, and the disciplinary actions by bishops in Washington, Buffalo, and San Antonio indicate the crisis involves more than birth control.

Trends were selected over top news stories because students felt that the developing process of a trend has more effect upon religious thought

and action, present and future, than a single news story.

The second trend singled out was an increased Christian objection to U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the U.S. draft. The actions of "concerned individuals" such as Benjamin Spock, Yale chaplain William Sloane Coffin, the late Martin Luther King, and the "Catonsville Nine" demonstrated these objections.

Statements by the National Council of Churches and the National Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops also bolstered this trend, the student survey showed.

A heightened Christian concern with social issues was ranked third. The Poor People's March, involvement in sanitation workers' and grape pickers' strikes, as well as Operation Centurion, a \$10 million religious contribution toward Negro power, demonstrated such concern in the U.S. Internationally, concern centered upon relieving the suffering and

starving in Biafra.

Recent meetings and pronouncements of black churchmen in St. Louis and Washington underscored the fourth trend — the emergence of black Christians demanding a voice in the affairs of their Churches.

The fifth significant trend proved to be a growing Christian approval and practice of violence as a tactic. Instances cited were student demonstrations in many countries, the South American Catholic Bishops' pronouncement on revolution, and the use of demonstrations and disruptive tactics within churches.

The May Gallup Poll, showing that 67 per cent of the U.S. population thought that religion was losing ground, emphasized the sixth trend — the decreasing influence of Christian Churches. The poll indicated a gradual decrease in attendance, contributions, and religious practice of U.S. Christians in the past eight years.

Local Story Makes

Radio News Listing

New York — (RNS) — Church World News, an interreligious newscast carried on 305 radio stations in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean, has included Bishop Sheen's gift of St. Bridget's Church to the U.S. government, later rescinded, among its best religious news stories of 1968.

The story was rated eighth on the list which was led by the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Dick Sutcliffe, the program's director, also turned to Bishop Sheen for the program's quote of the year. He quoted the bishop's observation that there are three things that machines cannot do for man: "Blow his own nose, make his own love, and say his own prayers."

Brazilian Leaders

Hit 'Liberal' Priests

Brasilia — (RNS) — "Liberal" Roman Catholic clergymen, schools, communications media and prominent Brazilian politicians were accused of "counter-revolutionary" activity in a statement issued here by the Brazilian government.

The statement, supported the proclamation of a military dictatorship and the arresting of approximately 200 opponents of President Arthur da Costa e Silva.

Among those who have been arrested are two American Oblate priests, Fathers Darrell Rupiper and Peter Grams, who were working in Recife. The priests had reportedly criticized the proclamation of the dictatorship in their parish bulletin.

The government statement cited "anti-government preaching" and "distortion of facts" by "the so-called progressive clergy" and communications media as evidence of subversive activity.

Tracing the growth of "subversion," the government charged: "Elements of the so-called progressive wing of the Catholic clergy intensified their challenges to the legitimacy of the regime, moving to the open preaching of subversion, making obvious their incitement of the population to become part of a movement against the government. . . . A part of the press . . . proceeded to distort facts with the object of creating a false image of the government before the public."

Lima Clergy Elect U.S. Priest Dean

Lima — (RNS) — Father Joseph Martin, a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston serving in Cardinal Cushing's Missionary Society of Saint James the Apostle, was elected Dean of the Deanery of La Victoria here.

By an overwhelming majority, the clergy of the district — including Peruvian priests as well as missionaries from the United States, Spain, France and Italy — chose Father Martin as their spiritual leader, under the bishop's jurisdiction, in all matters relating to expansion, policy-making and new religious programs pertaining to this area.

Church in Yugoslavia Tolerated

day — although in Slovenia, which is strongly Catholic, both Christmas and All Souls Day are holidays.

The reason, it was explained to me, is that in Belgrade there is a large majority of Orthodox (there are only five Catholic parishes in the capital city). The Orthodox celebrate Christmas on a different day from Catholics — and the government is reluctant to lose both as workdays.

Religion cannot be taught in the schools. The parishes have special rooms for study of religion. Attendance differs in various places. Sometimes it is nearly 100%, and sometimes there are very few attending. This has been attributed to the tradition of the area and to the activity of the priests.

In the Army, for instance, the situation has improved in various ways. In 1951 and 1952, for instance, soldiers were explicitly forbidden to go to church. But then a few years ago soldiers were allowed to attend Mass, and the situation has been getting better — gradually, but better.

It is not easy to get permits for construction of churches — but it is possible. The big problem usually is to get

SIBLEY'S AFTER-CHRISTMAS SAVINGS



SHAGMOOR COAT SALE

fur trimmed
\$118 to \$138
untrimmed, reg. \$90 to \$115
\$69 to \$79

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(fur products labeled to show country of origin of imported furs)

SIBLEY'S



A Time for Prayer

Worship has many settings in wartime. At top, servicemen kneel as chaplain conducts a service on a hill overlooking the helicopter landing strip at the Marble Mountain Marine Corps Air Facility at Da Nang. Below, heads are bowed in prayer aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise during memorial services for airmen lost in combat. Roman Catholic and Protestant chaplains officiated at the service. (RNS)

Nixon's Big Problem Crime Rate Rise

By J. J. GILBERT (NC News Service)

Washington — Crime in the nation, which was a talking point in the recent national elections, will be a problem for the new administration which takes office here on Jan. 20. Crime just won't go away. Actually, the problem worsens.

And it can't be referred to simply as "crime in the streets" or "crime in the cities." Crime, it is reliably reported, is increasing just about everywhere in the country.

A report just published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation says there was a 19 per cent increase in crime during the first nine months of 1968, as compared with the January-September figures for 1967. Violent crimes, as a group, increased 21 per cent.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, whom President-elect Richard M. Nixon has asked to stay on in his administration, called particular at-

tention of the country to the fact that, on a nationwide basis, robbery offenses continued a sharp upward trend with armed robbery up 37 per cent.

Street robberies, he said, were up 37 per cent for the first nine months of 1968, service station robberies up 31 per cent, business house robberies up 28 per cent, chain store robberies up 20 per cent, and robberies in residences up 19 per cent.

Burglary is still with us, and growing in volume. It is interesting that while burglaries committed in residences at night were up 19 per cent in the period covered by the report, burglaries committed in residences during daytime rose 24 per cent.

Each region of the country reported increases in all crime classifications — northeastern states, 25 per cent; north central states, 16 per cent; southern states, 17 per cent; and western states, 19 per cent.

Church in Yugoslavia Tolerated

By Floyd Anderson (NC News Service)

Belgrade — Things are a little better for the Catholic Church in Yugoslavia. One observer said that "at the top there is a tolerance of the Church, an active coexistence."

One example of this is the national Catholic newspaper, Voice of the Council. Published every other week in Zagreb, it has a national circulation of 250,000 through individual subscriptions and church sales. However, it is not sold on the public newsstands, which might tend to increase its sales still further.

Another example is a new edition of the Bible which was recently published. The first edition of 60,000 copies is almost completely sold out, and a second edition is now being printed. This was described as a joint enterprise of Church and state; some professors at the government university cooperated with it, an organization of the state published it, and the state financially helped.

One problem is the observance of Church holidays. In Belgrade, for instance, Christmas is just another work-