

AROUND THE WORLD



Democratic Election of Bishops Sought

Madrid — (RNS) — Some 500 Madrid Roman Catholic priests and laymen assembled here to petition the Spanish hierarchy for changes which would allow the democratic election of bishops.

The group gathered outside of the building where the Spanish Bishops' Conference was holding its national meeting and handed a letter to Fernando Cardinal Quiroga y Palacios, Archbishop of Compostela, who was presiding at the meeting.

The letter called on the Church to reject the present arrangement under which the Spanish government selects bishops — from nominees suggested by the Pope — and to give this power of selection to the Catholic people of Spain.

Its content and tone were similar to those of petitions drawn up in Bilbao calling for the resignation of the late Bishop Pablo Gurpide Beope and the democratic election of his successor.

Latin Mass Coming Back?

Rome — (RNS) — The Latin Mass, with Gregorian chant, should be included in the schedules of basilicas, college chapels and the more important churches in Rome, the Pope's vicar for the diocese has stated.

Angelo Cardinal dell'Acqua also suggested, in a list of norms relating to the celebration of the Eucharist, that women serve as lectors during Mass in their own educational institutions, associations and religious communities.

Because of the special status of the Roman diocese, observers here said that the norms are expected to influence diocesan regulations elsewhere.

The Cardinal proposed also that simultaneous Masses in a single church be avoided, and that parish priests promote devotion to the Eucharist by keeping churches open at least from 7 a.m. to noon and from 5 to 8 p.m.

January Consistory Foreseen

Vatican City — (RNS) — The 21-member Council of Cardinals, whose membership includes the heads of all the central Vatican agencies, has held its third meeting here since its establishment 15 months ago.

No official report was made, but unofficial sources said that these topics were discussed:

— A consistory for the elevation of new cardinals to be held here between Jan. 20 and 28.

— The selection of a successor to Cardinal Cicognani, Pope Paul's closest co-worker, who is nearly 86 years old and in ill health.

Island Anglicans Face New Status

Bridgeport, Barbados — (RNS) — The Anglican Church in Barbados is preparing for its disestablishment.

The Barbados Legislature is considering a bill which would phase out government grants to the Anglicans over a 10-year period.

Diocesan executives have invited D. C. Mackintosh, secretary-treasurer of the Anglican Church of Canada's Toronto diocese, to help island churchmen adjust to the eventual new status.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Old Pilgrim Churches Merging

Boston — (RNS) — Boston's two oldest churches, the First and Second Churches (Unitarian Universalist), have voted to merge and build a new edifice in the city's fashionable Back Bay where the First Church stood until it was destroyed by fire in March.

The churches, among the first in the nation, were founded by early Puritan settlers. Ministers and worshippers have included such famous figures in American history as Paul Revere, John Winthrop, the first governor of Massachusetts, Cotton Mather, Charles Francis Adams, Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Boston's First Church was founded in 1630 by Gov. Winthrop. Second Church was established in 1649 by seven members of the First Church when they reasoned that the town was becoming thickly settled and needed more churches.

New Religion Course Readied

New York — (RNS) — A new Christian education curriculum has been developed through the Committee on Weekday Christian Education of the National Council of Churches. Covering grades 1 through 12, the material will be published next March.

Four "major subject areas" are stressed in the series — history, science, society and the self. A fifth covers the Christian gospel and non-Christian religions in the U.S.

Diocese Drops Forty Hours

Portland, Maine — (NC) — New guidelines on Eucharistic worship state that the Forty Hours Devotion is no longer required in this diocese.

The Forty Hours Devotion, which has been observed once a year in every parish of the diocese, may now be replaced by a solemn annual Eucharistic exposition.

The guidelines urged that the liturgical commission of each parish board be given an active role in planning the solemn exposition.



New Church Architecture

What may seem to be concrete silos are actually the strong walls of the new Roman Catholic Holy Cross Church in Erlangen, West Germany. Demonstrating a new trend in West Germany toward bolder forms in church architecture, the edifice will be a part of an already completed Carmelite convent. (RNS)

Prelate Plans to Use Brothers To Relieve Priest Shortage

New Orleans — (NC) —

In a 2-year and interregnum, Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans discussed a variety of topics — more extensive use of Brothers to relieve the priest shortage; integration of laymen into administrative roles in the archdiocese; reorganization of the archdiocese; schools and sermons.

Regarding the priest shortage, Archbishop Hannan said he has applied to the Holy See for special faculties "which would be given to religious Brothers who would perform to a great extent the faculties which are being envisioned for permanent deacons."

The archbishop added he hopes to make better use of the varied talents of Sisters in the archdiocese in helping with some parochial duties. There are some necessary and essential tasks in the parish Sisters can perform, and "perform well," the archbishop said, and they would be trained for these duties.

The archbishop also said, although lay theologians in parishes are effective, they are also expensive. One solution to the problem of help for priests in parishes, he said, would be to make use of former seminarians, at least on a part-time basis.

Regarding Catholic schools, Archbishop Hannan said the schools are in financial difficulties, but he does not foresee closing them.

"We consider the atmosphere of the schools to be very important in forming character," the archbishop said. "We believe that the spirit of a philosophy of life, a religious philosophy of life, is extremely important to the character formation of the children."

The archbishop said this influence is not limited just to the times when the children have religious education, but permeates the entire climate at the school.

Projects being studied now,

he said, would provide better coordination of Catholic schools in certain areas so special courses might be provided for some of the children in all the schools in a given area.

With regard to adult education, the archbishop pointed out that the big method of instructing people is still by the sermon on Sunday.

"Now to me," the archbishop said, "we should lay much greater emphasis on a good course of instructions which would be preached by the use of the homily."

Archbishop Hannan said he views his own role as more of the teacher and pastor.

Humanae Vitae Rated Top Catholic Story

Washington — (NC) —

Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, was rated the No. 1 Catholic news story of 1968.

No. 2 spot in the annual NC News Service poll of editors of Catholic newspapers in the U.S. and Canada was taken by the stories on the reactions to the encyclical among national and regional hierarchies, theologians, priests and others.

In third place in the poll to select the year's top 10 Catholic stories, was the controversy the encyclical caused between Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington and a group of priests in the archdiocese, which involved the disciplining of many of them.

The next seven top stories chosen by the editors were:

4: The U.S. bishops' fall meeting in Washington and the issuance of their second pastoral letter, *Human Life in Our Day*.

5: The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis and the nationwide reaction of the slaying.

6: The assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles.

7: The Biafra-Nigeria conflict and U.S. and world aid efforts, particularly Catholic participation through the U.S. Catholic Relief Services and the Vatican.

8: Pope Paul's visit to Bogota, Colombia, to participate

in the 39th International Eucharistic Congress.

9: The controversy over the New Dutch Catechism with corrections desired by the Holy See causing widespread discussion and considerable dissent.

10: The issuance of Pope Paul's Credo of the People of God, ending the Year of Faith.

Nuclear Treaty Adoption Urged

Boston — (RNS) — Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston has called for "the earliest possible ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" in a New Year's message issued here.

The prelate said that while all necessary precautions for national defense must be taken, failure to ratify the treaty "would be to build with one hand and tear down with the other."

"Ours is the supremely urgent task," he said, "to discover the spiritual significance of science and technology, and the possibilities they offer for the achievement of God's creative design and of harmony among men."

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CASH & GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	2,464,868.39
FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK STOCK	227,100.00
PREPAID F.S.L.I.C. RESERVE	233,853.08
OFFICE BUILDING	103,344.02
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	36,654.86
OTHER ASSETS	41,098.44
TOTAL	\$26,832,034.33

LIABILITIES

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	\$ 7,182,115.59
INCOME PASSBOOK, CLASS I	7,696,522.64
INCOME CERTIFICATE, CLASS II	6,654,765.22
INSTALLMENT SAVINGS	2,336,319.84
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$23,869,723.29
MORTGAGE PREPAID TAX ESCROW	353,558.76
LOANS IN PROCESS	393,200.00
DEFERRED CREDITS	2,535.02
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