Home-Mass Report

(Continued from Page 1)

lack of preparation or understanding. In the Diocese of Rochester the Home Mass assembly is open to both Catholics and non-Catholics in the hope that it will perform the truly pastoral service of bringing new members to the Faith.

GUIDELINES

In the **Instruction on Eucharistic Worship**, issued by the Sacred Congregation of Rites an May 25, 1967, we are told:

In order to emphasize the value of the unity of the parish community in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays and feast days, Masses for particular groups, such as associations and societies, should be held on weekdays if possible.

In order to implement this directive of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, the Liturgical Commission offers the following guidelines for the celebration of Home Masses:

1. The Home Masses are intended to give people a deeper sense of community and an intimate experience of community, in order that they may more fully appreciate the parish community in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist.

2. **Regular and frequent celebration of Home Masses is to be strongly encouraged. This applies especially during Advent and Lent.**

3. The celebration of Home Masses should take place on weekdays only, not on Sundays and feast days.

4. These Home Masses are open to all.

5. Communion under both kinds, at Home Masses, has not yet been approved by the Holy See.

6. The Liturgy of the Home Masses is to follow the Roman Rite as presented in the liturgical books.

7. Any one of the 4 Eucharistic Prayers may be used in Home Masses.

We are continuing to urge the value of Masses in people's homes, with the stipulation that these ceremonies should be preceded and accompanied by adequate instruction. In this way the meaning and significance of the celebration will be evident to all who are present.

Wishing you every blessing.

Food For Biafrans

Sen. Charles E. Goodell (R.-N.Y.), Mrs. Richard M. Nixon, Catholic Archbishop Terence J. Cooke and Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R.-N.Y.) examine foodstuffs outside St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Food was collected for shipment to starving Biafrans and was sent to Brooklyn for loading on the SS Forra. Sen. Goodell was chairman of the Biafra Christmas Ship Committee, reported that 3,500 tons of food were expected to be carried by the vessel (RNS)

Dutch Pastoral Council Makes Compromise Bid On Church Teachings

(Continued from Page 1)

quired of priests and theologians unacceptable; and said that it regarded the prohibition of artificial methods for the regulation of births as offensive for an adult Catholic community.

Bishop Petrus J. A. Moors of Roermond attacked the statement on moral attitude. He said it was contrary to the spirit of the Second Vatican Council and did not express Christ's call to spread the Gospel.

Two Dominican theologians gave contrasting views of the statement on moral attitude. Father Edward Schillebeeckx, called the document "a pearl." Father Andrea Maltha said the document was "disparaging toward Church authority and a colossal undermining of the determination the Pope says we must have."

Delegates challenged the Cardinal on his reported statement, that the findings of the Pastoral Council, a year-old temporary body, were purely advisory. He declined to define what its status is but said the bishops viewed it as a dialogue or confrontation and an effort to reach a common understanding.

In fact, all nine Dutch bishops voted for the resolution on morality, along with 75 other delegates. No tally of negative votes was taken. The voting delegates include 39 priests.

Foreign observers were struck by the freedom of debate. Cardinal Alfrink, the gentle, white-haired man who is Archbishop of Utrecht, was humorously chided by the chair for making an "unclear clarification" and found himself under frequent attack from the avant-garde.

A youth demanded: "Who are we to represent youth? Where are the marijuana smokers, the kids who leave home and live together?"

A girl replied, "Well, we are decent young Catholics," whereupon another girl retorted, "I am not a decent young Catholic and I can prove it."

Archbishop Angelo Felici, the papal pronuncio, was not present on the day the council discussed marriage and the family and issued its statement on the encyclical Humanae Vitae.

Calling this absence "remarkable," the Dutch Catholic daily De Tijd commented: "Though he was nominated as the one official observer of the Holy See at this plenary assembly, he did not observe what this assembly thinks about the encyclical. The papal representative missed the most dramatic moment of this whole plenary meeting."

Before adjourning the pastoral council session also declared that the controversial Dutch New Catechism (De Nieuwe Katechismus) "in its original form" is a "safe guide for religious instruction."

The Dutch bishops announced in November that they would issue a special supplement to the catechism containing corrections and clarifications recommended by a special commission of cardinals named by Pope Paul VI to study the catechism.

"We have accepted these chnges," Cardinal Alfrink said (Jan. 8), "but that does not mean that we take back what we said before." The catechism, published in October, 1966, bears the cardinal's imprimatur (permission to publish).

The council also called for solutions "that are more than a compromise or a stop-gap" for broken marriages among Catholics.

It urged authorities to "seek an answer to theological and practical problems about the indissolubility of Christian marriage" and to seek "amendments and simplifications" of canonical rules and procedures regarding marriage.

Resolutions on priestly celibacy and relations with the Vatican were postponed to a future session of the pastoral council, which has not yet been scheduled.

Democracy Can't Work In Church, Bishops Say

By ULRICH HECKNER
(NC News Service)

Fulda, Germany — The German bishops have said that it is impossible for the Catholic Church to have a completely democratic structure.

In a "Word on Questions of Faith and Churchly Life," released here after a special two-day session of the German bishops' conference, the bishops said, "questions of faith, of moral norms and sacramental life cannot be solved by majority decisions.

"In these cases the principle of democracy, that all power comes from the people, has no validity. Here the churchly office is obligated only to the Lord in faithful obedience," they said.

A full democratization of the Church, they add, is contrary to its mission given by Jesus Christ.

The document stresses that every curtailment of the reality of the God incarnate, Jesus Christ, of His birth of the Virgin Mary or of His death and His resurrection means departing from the faith of the Church.

The bishops, however, recognize the freedom of personal religious decision and the necessity of a responsible formation of consciences.

Commenting on the discussion of Pauline birth control encyclical, Humanae Vitae, the bishops regret demonstrations against the Church's teaching authority in general which, they say, have touched the foundations of faith and of the ecclesiastical community.

On liturgical experiments, the bishops warned against "experiments whereby faith in the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ and in . . . the significance of the Eucharistic meal for unity in the faith and for the ecclesiastical community is endangered. Therefore, intercommunion cannot be a means to reach Church unity."

The bishops confirmed their support for the decision of the Second Vatican Council to maintain priestly celibacy but said that they are ready to support the laicization of priests to enter other professions. Nevertheless, they said, "we cannot charge such former priests with tasks which are reserved for priests or deacons."

Mrs. King to Preach At Anglican Cathedral

London — (RNS) — Mrs. Coretta King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, will deliver a sermon in the pulpit of St. Paul's Cathedral (Anglican) here on the evening of March 16.

Dr. King preached in the cathedral four years ago when he was en route to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Mrs. King will be the first woman to preach from the St. Paul pulpit during an official Anglican service.

New Planes Will Double Biafra Airlift Capacity

New York — (RNS) — The acquisition of four C-97 "Stratofreighter" transport planes from the U.S. government will allow Joint Church Aid, the religious agency airlifting food into Biafra, to double its daily shipments.

The C-97s, with a capacity of 18 to 20 tons, will also transport the cargoes at about half the former expense per ton.

The Biafra airlift formerly used DC-6s and 7s which have a capacity of about 10 tons.

At present, a spokesman said, Joint Church Aid has approximately $1.5 million, sufficient funds to continue the airlift for about three months, until the middle or end of April.

"Is is not much in terms of the need," he said, "but this is the first time we have been able to look ahead more than three weeks."

Five Joint Church Aid leaders flew in from Europe for a special conference here devoted chiefly to discussion of the new planes and their effect on the Biafra airlift.

Bishop Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, informed the conferees that a new American non-profit organization had been formed to receive the aircraft from the U.S. government.

The organization, Joint Church Aid U.S.A., has Bishop Swanstrom as its president and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee and James McCracken of Church World Service, relief agency of the National Council of Churches, as vice-presidents.

At the press conference, Bishop Swanstrom again denied repeated Nigerian charges that the religiously-sponsored airlifts are being used to transport munitions to the Biafrans. The shipments, he said, "are open to any type of neutral inspection that anyone can realistically devise."

U.S. Donates More For Biafra Relief

Washington — (NC)—The United States has announced it will contribute an additional $2.3 million to aid the International Committee of the Red Cross in Nigeria and Biafra.

The announcement, by the Agency for International Development (AID), said the funds would be used to purchase medical supplies, storage facilities, and air and ship charters in the effort to help victims of the Nigerian civil war.

AID also announced the U.S. has authorized the delivery of 67,340 metric tons of American foodstuffs for Nigerian relief programs since the outbreak of the war.

The latest contribution of $2.3 million brings to $22.5 million the total of U.S. government relief assistance.

Moon Trip Religious Experience

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — "I can't understand taking a trip like this without recognizing its religious significance," Apollo 8 Commander Col. Frank Borman told one of the largest press conferences ever held here.

The nation's capital had spent the day in giving Col. Borman and his fellow astronauts, Navy Capt. James Lovell Jr., and Lt. Col. William Anders, a tumultuous heroes' welcome.

Col Borman was asked by a newsman: What, besides the Christmas Eve reading from the first chapter of Genesis, was the religious significance of the moon flight? He replied that he was hopeful of getting a closer look "how all this got started," referring to Creation.

He indicated to the several hundred newsmen present that the trip to the moon had bolstered his religious beliefs. His companions nodded their agreement.

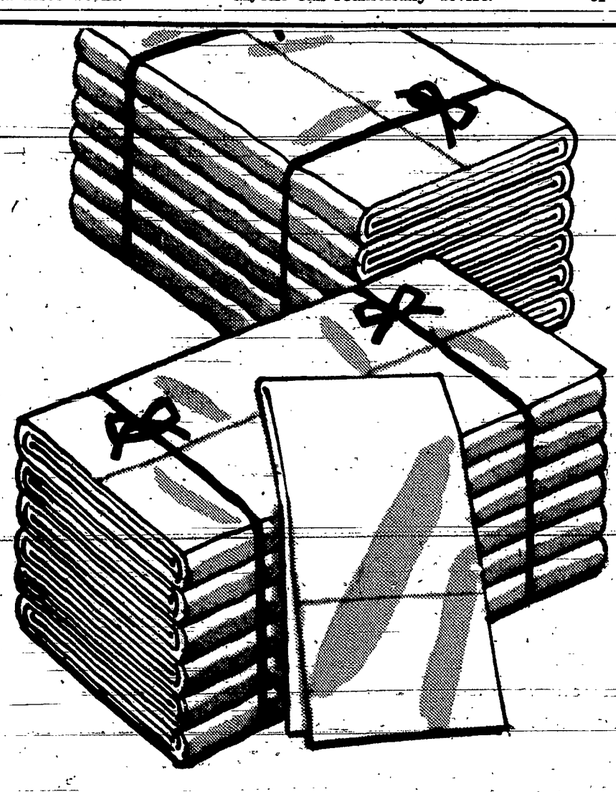
At one point he said, "The one overwhelming emotion that we carried with us is the fact that we really do all exist on the small globe and when you get to 240,000 miles it really isn't a very large earth."

Col. Borman's comments on the Christmas Eve Bible reading brought the heartiest applause of their laugh-punctuated appearances as they addressed a joint session of Congress — and the nine justices of U.S. Supreme Court.

"One of the things that was truly historic," he joked, "was that we got that good Roman Catholic, Bill Anders, to read from the King James Version."

Setting his gaze on Chief Justice Earl Warren in the front row, he quipped: "But now that I see the gentlemen in the front row, I'm not sure we should have read from the Bible at all."

The on-lookers were obviously pleased when Justice Warren, whose Court barred prayer and Bible reading in public schools, went up to Col. Borman and warmly greeted him.
ed him.



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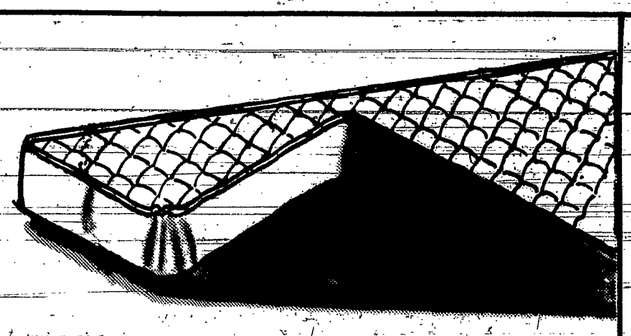

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