



Bishop Urges All Pastors To Support Courier

My dear Brother Priest:

On March 22, 1968 I promised to bring to the diocese a new Courier-Journal. Our reasoning was, this seemed imperative for the Catholic press to have a new birth after the Vatican Council. We believe this to be necessary for two reasons:

1. The secular press, in the last few years, has taken over, to a great extent, the publication of the most important religious news.
2. This left the Catholic press only with weekly crumbs that fell from the daily's table. Faced with the insipidity of doing a re-hash of news, a small segment of the Catholic press compensated for it either by a "what's - wrong - with - the - Church" syndrome, or by giving more space to those who said 2 + 2 = 5. While throwing mud rather than rice at the Bride of Christ gave Catholic journalism a "quick trip" in circulation, it left hearts empty, hearts bitter, and Mother Church sorrowful.

We are now entering into the third dimension of the Catholic Press, with some such goals as these:

1. The Catholic Press will no longer be just a newspaper, nor will it be a secular press sprinkled with holy water. It will be a kind of trade-journal recording the successes, the failures, and the projections of Christ's mission to the world.
2. As a trade-journal, it will consist of news, observations, and directives of specialized departments, such as: Youth, Liturgy, Books Worth Reading (not book reviews), Family Life, Education, Spiritual, Missions, Theology, Children's Page, and similar generic interests.
3. It will be a trade-journal of the Diaspora. The Diaspora, as you know, was the name given to Jews struggling to keep their faith in a Gentile and pagan world. Catholics belong to the Diaspora — they are a people called out of the world to be unified with Christ, and then to go into the world to Christify it.

As the press of the Diaspora, it will tell the faithful not only what has happened, but what ought to happen, and what we will try to make happen for the sake of Christ and the Church.

4. The Catholic Press will be the teaching instrument of the Church. The Vatican Council said that the first office of the bishop is to teach. This takes it beyond the category of a newspaper and makes it not a record of crumbling foundations, but of trumpet blasts summoning to battle. It will fill up empty spaces in human hearts, illumine dark recesses of the mind, and channel the sacrificial spirit immanent in youth.

We have not yet achieved this ideal of the Catholic Press, despite our promise, but if we do not sustain what we have,

how can we ever make it what we hope for? Only 60% of the families in this 12-county diocese receive the Courier-Journal.

One thing is certain — if we neglect this instrument for the communication of the truths of the Church, it will not grow to the ideal; if we, however, wholeheartedly support what is presently good and representative, it will become better.

I hope you will look to the Courier-Journal as a founding which has not yet reached full maturity. But we will never make it perfect if we abandon it on the doorstep of our present discontent.

I leave it, therefore, to you to find the ways and means in your parish to bring to the people what the Catholic Press really is — the Fifth Gospel.

With every blessing, I am
Your servant in Christ,

Fight Bigotry in N.Y., Religious Leaders Urge

New York — (RNS) — Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders here officially called on the eight million citizens of the nation's largest city to pledge they will not utter statements or commit acts which are anti-black, anti-Jewish or anti-white.

A "pledge of conscience" was issued by the Committee of Religious Leaders, representing the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, the Council of Churches (Protestant), the Board of Rabbis and the Queens Federation of Churches.

"As a child of God, a human being, and a proud citizen of New York City, I do solemnly pledge that I will not voice, nor help, nor tolerate anti-black, anti-Jewish, or anti-white sentiments, statements or acts, open or subtle," the statement said.

Circulated to all churches and synagogues for presentation to members, the pledge was issued as alarm was expressed over tension between the Negro and Jewish communities.

Charges of anti-Semitism and anti-

black attitudes have been made here, particularly in the continuing public school crisis.

On the day the pledge was issued, two full-page advertisements urging reconciliation and city-wide brotherhood appeared in The New York Times.

One was placed by the American Jewish Committee. It called on Negroes and Jews to "renew the alliance for freedom our common past and common aspirations once forged. Together we must speak out against those who exploit differences and incite hatred. Together we must condemn anti-Semitism and anti-Negroism out of the respect we owe ourselves and each other. Together we must join in the fight for human dignity for every citizen."

The second advertisement carried the "pledge of conscience." It was placed by the Committee to Stop Hate. Signers included Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant clergymen, white and black.

Three Join Ranks of Unit To Assure Right to Life

Leaders of two Catholic women's groups and the director of the diocesan Family Life Bureau this week joined the Right to Life Committee in its resistance to further erosion of New York State's abortion laws.

The two women, Mrs. Thomas G. Farrell and Mrs. Joseph McHugh, head the Women's Board of St. Mary's Hospital and the Seton Branches of the same hospital, respectively. Michael Cole is the lay director of the Family Life Bureau.

Similar Right to Life committees are now forming in five other areas of the 12-county diocese of Rochester.

Mrs. Farrell, of 7 Whitestone Lane in Brighton, expressed concern for Church-sponsored hospitals if the proposed weakening of the state abortion laws becomes a fact.

"Certainly Catholic hospitals, which on principle would refuse to allow abortions, would be faced with grave problems," she commented. She added that the whole trend toward "easy" abortions seemed to be in conflict with the basic thrust of "all hospitals, which exist to preserve health, and are based on a deep respect for human life."

She added, "God gives life—it is not ours to take away."

Adding a personal note, Mrs. McHugh said that her son, now 24, might never have been born if she'd followed the advice given her when she was expecting him.

WRITE YOUR LOCAL LAWMAKER.

Do you have an opinion on liberalization of the abortion bill in New York State?

SENATORS

Thomas Laverne, 60th District, 4199 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14617.

James E. Powers, 51st District, 17 Evergreen Drive, Chili, N.Y. 14624.

William T. Smith, 48th District, Smithome Farms, RD 1, Elmira, N.Y. 14903.

Theodore D. Day, 49th District, RD 2, Iserhagen, N.Y. 14847.

Thomas E. McGowan, 64th District, 704 Biltmore Bldg., Buffalo, N.Y.

ASSEMBLYMEN

Donald C. Shoemaker, 180th District, 833 Lake Road, Webster, N.Y. 14580.

Raymond J. Lili, 181st District, 31 Wolfers Ter., Rochester, N.Y. 14621.

S. William Rosenberg, 132nd District, 1866 Oliver Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

Frank Carroll, 133rd District, 618 Elmgrove Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14623.

Charles F. Stockmeister, 134th District, 74 Seward Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14612.

Don W. Cook, 135th District, P.O. Box 18, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467.

George Michaels, 122nd District, 10 Norman Ave., Auburn, N.Y. 14406.

Constance E. Cook, 125th District, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

L. Richard Marshall, 126th District, 7 Stratford Park, Elmira, N.Y. 14905.

Charles D. Henderson, 127th District, 39 Church St., Hornell, N.Y. 14843.

Frederick L. Warden, 128th District, 100 Lewis St., Geneva, N.Y. 14456.

Joseph Finley, 129th District, RD 1, Walworth, N.Y. 14568.

James L. Emery, 136th District, 5477 Lakeville Road, Genesee, N.Y. 14454.

All may be addressed at the State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12201.



Laymen who have joined the Right to Life Committee for the Monroe County area confer with Father John P. Norris, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church and diocesan coordinator for the committee. From left are Michael G. Cole, director of the diocesan Family Life Bureau; Mrs. Joseph W. McHugh, Pittsford, general chairman of the Seton Branches, St. Mary's Hospital, and Mrs. Thomas G. Farrell, Brighton, president of the women's board of the hospital.

"I had a physical disability, which was supposed to prohibit having children safely. Needless to say, I'm glad I did not follow the advice, or I would not have my son today."

Mrs. McHugh, of 33 Bromley Rd. in Pittsford, chairman of the 900-member Seton Branches, sounded a mothers' view in joining the Right to Life Committee. "I can't believe that any expectant mother would sacrifice her unborn child unless she were influenced by outside pressures."

Michael Cole, lay director of the diocesan Family Life Bureau, explained his reasons for joining the campaign against liberalized abortion laws in the following statement:

"The Family Life Bureau is concerned primarily with helping people to lead a happier life; the Right to Life Committee is concerned to protect that life.

"Abortion is murder—in the same way as the killing of a small baby is murder, and any attempt that people make to commit abortion for any reason—whatsoever—makes them accessories to murder.

"An unborn child has the right to life, and it is our duty to protect that life in the face of mounting opposition from those who have reduced Christianity to a pious code of ethics which can be molded to suit the apparent needs of a fickle society."

New York Archdiocese Protected Msgr. Illich

New York — Documents made public this week concerning Monsignor Ivan Illich and his controversial cultural center in Cuernavaca, Mexico, recently closed by Vatican order, showed that officials of the Archdiocese of New York twice resisted efforts of high Church officials in Mexico to force Msgr. Illich's return to duties in New York City.

Monsignor Illich, a 42-year-old priest of the archdiocese, is leader of the Center for intercultural Documentation, which was established in 1961 to train Catholic missionaries in Spanish and other aspects of Latin-American culture.

The center is now a secular academic institution specializing in language training and research in the field of social change in Latin America. It receives no church subsidies, and Catholic clerics make up only one-fifth of its student body.

The institution has been an object of suspicion in conservative religious and political circles because its courses and publications have been open to persons of all ideological persuasions, including a number of radicals.

Last month Franjo Cardinal Seper, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, issued an order banning all Catholic clerics from participating in the activities of the center. No reasons were specified.

A copy of a letter dated Nov. 10, 1967, from the late Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, to the Most Rev. Octaviano Marquez, Archbishop of Puebla in Mexico states that he had received a request to this effect from Bishop Marquez on behalf of the Conference of Bishops of Mexico.

In his response, Cardinal Spellman noted that he had given Monsignor Illich permission to enter into a five-year contract at the center. He hesitated to accede to the request, until "sustaining reasons are brought forth."

"The Proposed Abortion Laws" will be Dr. Thomas R. Sweeney's topic this Sunday night (Feb. 9) at St. Margaret Mary's school hall on Rogers Parkway. Members of nearby St. Thomas and Christ the King parish have been invited to hear the public lecture by the local physician, who is co-chairman of the local Right to Life Committee.

Organizations interested in obtaining a speaker on this controversial issue may contact Father John Norris at Blessed Sacrament rectory (271-7240). He is acting as coordinator of the committee's public information effort.

The trio of laypeople join a recently-formed committee headed by attorney Eugene R. Cusker and Dr. Thomas R. Sweeney, Rochester obstetrician. The Right to Life Committee seeks to carry to the public forum the problems inherent in the trend toward "easy abortion," currently symbolized in proposed legislation now facing the New York State legislature.

Representatives of the committee plan to present its views at a public hearing on the proposed abortion laws scheduled for Rochester on Feb. 20 by the state Senate Committee on Public Health.

The second effort occurred a month later, following the death of Cardinal Spellman, when the Most Rev. John J. Maguire was serving as temporary administrator of the archdiocese.

In a letter dated Dec. 19, 1967, Archbishop Maguire wrote to Msgr. Illich declaring of an in receipt of a directive from the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to recall you to the archdiocese. In accord with that directive I am asking you to return here as quickly as possible for a diocesan appointment."

In subsequent correspondence, Msgr. Illich told Archbishop Maguire that he had contractual obligations that would prohibit his returning to New York except for a "few weeks at a time."

In an interview Monsignor Illich declared that the recall order was subsequently shelved when he informed Archbishop Maguire in a personal conversation in New York that he had appealed the directive to Pope Paul VI.

Msgr. Illich, currently lecturing here at Fordham University on educational problems in Latin America, told reporters that he was living as a layman and not celebrating Mass. He requested laicization more than a year ago but the process is not officially finished yet.

Dirksen to Renew School Prayer Drive

Washington — (NC) — Sen. Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois has served notice he will carry on his efforts to restore prayers in the nation's public schools.

The legislator said he has 45 senators who will sponsor a Constitutional amendment which would provide that nothing in the Constitution shall "abridge the right of persons lawfully assembled in any public building" to participate in nondenominational prayer.



Were these men hanged in Iraq recently, really spies? Or is the incident symptomatic of a new wave of anti-Semitism which seems to be growing in the world? See stories this page, Page 4 and Page 5.

Execution Photo Brings Anguish

'They Have Hanged My Brother'

(Pope Criticizes Executions, Page 5)
By JOSEPH McLELLAN

New York — (RNS) — The man pointed a trembling finger at a newspaper photograph — a group of prisoners standing in a dock, their heads bowed.

"That's my brother," he said, his voice taut with anguish. "They have hanged my brother, mutilated his body, marched mobs past him as he hanged in a public place. For nothing. For no reason. Because he was a Jew."

The man asked Religious News Service to withhold his name because he still has relatives in Iraq, "more innocent people they could torture and kill."

He spoke to the press because he had a plea for the government of Iraq, a plea as ancient in Jewish history as the names of Moses and Pharaoh: "Let my people go."

"From 1963 to now," the man said, "not a single Jew has been allowed to leave Iraq. If they are enemies of the country as Iraq's government says, if they are a disruptive element, if they are so deeply hated, why doesn't Iraq let them out?"

Iraq has confiscated Jewish property, including synagogues, schools and cemeteries, he said. He charged that the government is keeping the 2,000 Jews who remain in Iraq as hostages, to be threatened with torture or execution if there is "too much" action or protest outside Iraq.

The systematic persecution of Jews in Iraq has included mockery of their religion, the man said. "On radio and

television, whenever they wanted to make people laugh, they would put on someone to mutter a few words from the Bible in Hebrew until their own religious leaders protested—we worship the same God."

"A Jewish cemetery, more than 200 years old was taken over and leveled by bulldozers. Once there were more than 35 Jewish schools in Baghdad; now there is only one. There were 50 synagogues; all but one have been taken by the government and sold. The Jewish religious community, which once regulated the lives of its members, has been demolished. Jewish charitable organizations have been abolished, Jewish hospitals confiscated."

The speaker was one of the 200,000 Jews who managed to leave Iraq before this became impossible. He has kept in touch with developments there through a number of business acquaintances, non-Jews, who go to Baghdad regularly. He showed letters from these friends which gave him details on his family and other Jews.

He said that the chief objective of the government in the trial and execution was to get rid of one of the convicted "spies," Abd al-Rahman al-Bazzaz, who was the prime minister in 1965 and 1966 and who was "an educated and a moderate man but no friend of the Jews."

"They hanged him with Jews to discredit him," the man said. "If they had hanged him alone, there would have been disturbances among the people. So they killed some Jews, too. It's very easy for them. They have 65 more innocent Jews under

arrest and they can replenish their supply at will."

He pointed at another face in the news photo: "This man, I knew him personally. He is more than 60 years old, functionally illiterate, unable to drive a car. How can he plot against the government? How can he meet with Abd al-Rahman? Blow up bridges? Communicate with the C.I.A.? Bring germ warfare into Iraq? He was accused of all these things and he confessed. They can make any man confess to anything with torture. Every man has a breaking point."

Commenting on a radio broadcast of Iraq's chief rabbi, who said that he accepted the court's verdict and who denied that his son had been executed, the man said that the government could force the rabbi to say anything. "How can he say that he doesn't accept the verdict of the court? Then he is a criminal."

"The son of another rabbi, Nessim Hakham Ysein, was tortured to death while under arrest five or six months ago. He didn't even get a chance to go to what they call a court."

He pointed to another face in the photo. "I know him, too. He's only a boy — just out of the Jesuit College; one year out. He is not a spy. But he is dead."

When the government forbade Jews to attend government schools, he explained, the American Jesuits who run Baghdad College began to accept a few Jews. "Now the college has been confiscated and the Americans have been driven out. The Jews have no place to go."