

Married Clergy Called 'Illusion'

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PEOPLE AND EVENTS



CYO Award for Lombardi

A man very much in the news, Vince Lombardi, receives the Catholic Youth Organization's highest sports citation from Archbishop Terence J. Cooke of New York. Lombardi was given the John V. Mara Memorial Sportsman of the Year Award. He recently was named coach, general manager and part-owner of the Washington Redskins. (RNS)

Bishop Joseph P. Dougherty, 64, of Yakima, Wash., has retired because of ill health and will be replaced by Msgr. Cornelius M. Power, it was announced by Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, apostolic delegate to the U.S. . . . In another appointment, Msgr. Joseph A. McNicholas has been appointed auxiliary to St. Louis Archbishop John J. Carberry.

Archbishop Thomas A. Boland of Newark, who was accused of having racist attitudes by 20 priests last month, is one of four men to receive the annual Brotherhood Awards from the New Jersey chapter of the National Conference of Christian and Jews. The archbishop is being honored for his support of the Mt. Carmel Guild and New Jersey Boystown . . . Archbishop Joseph T. McGuiken of San Francisco is the main sponsor of a national pilgrimage in honor of Father Juniperó Serra which will leave for Spain Oct. 5 . . . The first layman to be elected chairman of the board of directors at St. Francis College of Brooklyn is Francis P. Kilcoyne . . . Father Etienne Diek, O.P., has been named assistant director of the Missionary Secretariat of the International Catholic Film Office in Rome.

Dr. Mondlane Killed
 Dr. Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, president of the anti-Portuguese Mozambique Liberation Front, was assassinated in Dar-es-Salaam on Feb. 3. A Presbyterian layman, the freedom fighter was seen as a source of hope for his colonized people by many of the world's religious leaders. An education center of his movement in Tanzania has received church funds. He was one of the principal speakers at the 1968 Conference on Church and Society sponsored by the World Council of Churches. (RNS)

By FR. R. A. GRAHAM, S.J.,
 Special Correspondent

Vatican City — (RNS) — A new offensive aimed at abolition of obligatory celibacy for Catholic priests has developed in the past few months in Europe. On the face of it, activity of priests' groups in Germany, France and Italy looks like the beginning of a ground swell.

But a married Catholic clergy is not for tomorrow, if one looks closely into the real prospects and possibilities of a change. The expectation that priests will soon be allowed to marry — or that former priests now married will be allowed to resume the ministry they left — must be reckoned one of the biggest illusions current in the Catholic world today.

The signs are completely lacking that the bishops and the Pope propose to depart from the tradition of celibacy in the Western church. If there is a crisis in vocations, they do not intend to solve it by matrimony.

The German bishops, in a statement of Dec. 28, could not be clearer. After noting with sympathy the personal drama of individual priests, they said they are ready to help find new work for those legitimately released from their obligations.

"All priests and priest groups which work against the obligation of celibacy should ask themselves honestly how they stand in regard to their own personal decision to follow the unmarried state of life."

"It cannot be allowed," said the German bishops, "that in this matter any ambiguity exist in the community of the Church. We must ask the young men preparing themselves for the priesthood to decide for celibacy freely and without reservation, so that they can be advanced to the priestly state."

The Vatican Council, usually a

good springboard for renewal proposals, offers no encouragement to the anti-celibacy movement. That question, by the desire of the Council Fathers and of Pope John XXIII, did not get on the agenda as such. The decree on The Ministry and Life of Priests, approved and confirmed the existing traditional legislation.

Finally, the encyclical of Pope Paul VI — On Priestly Celibacy — dated June 24, 1967, definitely closed the issue so far as the Pope is concerned. We know now, since the birth control encyclical, that he is ready to brave currently popular opinion in support of what he thinks is his duty. A reversal of stand is not in the cards.

"This question should not be discussed in the council and should remain in the competence of the Holy See," said Cardinal Leo Suensens of Malines. So also spoke Cardinal Frings of Cologne and Cardinal Ieger, then of Montreal.

Pope John himself finally decided that the question was not suitable for

public discussion in the Council and reserved to the Holy See, that is, to himself, whatever measures were to be taken.

Later on, in the final stages of the Council, some bishops did raise the question again. At this point, Pope Paul had a letter read to the Council Fathers on Oct. 11, 1965, in which he declared he did not want a debate on the matter.

He added, "It is our intension, in so far as it lies in us, not only to preserve this ancient, sacred and providential law, but to reinforce its observance, recalling the priests of the Latin Church to the awareness of the causes and the reasons that today — and especially today — make this law most suitable."

The Vatican's (and the bishops'), resistance rests on the long history of the celibacy issue. Periodically in the past century, not to go farther back, a move developed in one or several countries. There was one such immediately after the First Vatican Council in 1870.

N. Y. Churchmen Set Anti-Racism Drive

New York — (RNS) — Twenty Jewish, Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders, Negro and white, active in human rights banded together here in a campaign to end escalating bigotry in the nation's largest city.

They acted in response to growing tensions between the black and Jewish communities here. Pointing out that Negroes and Jews have a common stake in defending one another from bigotry, a statement from the clergymen said:

"We must break through the terrible cycle of assault and counter-assault, hatred and response to hatred, which now threatens to engulf us."

Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP and Arthur J. Goldberg, president of the American Jewish Committee, announced on behalf of

the 20 that a "hot line" would be established among city agencies to assure prompt communication and joint action on community problems.

They also asked mayors of U.S. cities to establish panels to mediate community relations problems before they "escalate out of all proportion."

"We who are white Catholics and Protestants condemn both white racism and anti-Semitism as an affront to the Creator who fashioned men in His image. We will oppose any efforts to substitute punishment and repression for the quality education, full employment and decent housing that every American has a right to expect."

Catholic Spokesman Hails Appointment

Washington — (NC) — The chief spokesman for the nation's Catholic schools hailed President Nixon's appointment of James E. Allen as U.S. Commissioner of Education as an "excellent choice, and one that all educators — both public and private will welcome."

Allen, 57, currently New York State Commissioner of Education, will join the Nixon administration as the nation's No. 1 public school official sometime this spring. (The appointment had been reported by wire services, but as of Feb. 3 the White House had not confirmed the appointment.)

Msgr. James C. Donohue, director of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, United States Catholic Conference, said: "Mr. Allen's statesman-like handling of the educational problem in the State of New York and his consideration for the public policy issues in education have been admirable."

Nixon Plans Visit With Pope Paul

Washington — (NC) — President Richard Nixon has announced that on his visit to Western Europe from Feb. 23 to March 2 he will meet with Pope Paul.

Nixon said he will visit Rome on Feb. 27, and will return there on March 2 to have an audience with Pope Paul VI before returning to the United States.

(Vatican sources have reported that Pope Paul has not yet received a request for an audience, but would "most willingly" see the new U.S. President.)

Accompanying President Nixon on the trip will be Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, his national security advisor.

Rededication Stressed for Brotherhood

New York — (RNS) — "Brotherhood Begins With You" is the theme of the National Conference of Christian and Jews' 1969 Brotherhood Week, Feb. 18-23. The event, to be marked throughout the country, is now in its 36th year.

Dr. Sterling W. Brown, NCCJ president, stated that the week "can well serve as a time of rededication for each of us to increase our efforts to achieve the promise of America."

For "too long have too many" waited for the fulfillment of that promise in their lives, he said. The "openness, vitality and know-how" that Americans have used to solve their technical problems, he added, should be combined with the understanding, compassion and the will to change "to realize justice and equality for all people."

National Brotherhood Chairman in 1969 is Thomas Vail, publisher and editor of The Cleveland Plain Dealer. His message stressed that "only by acting as a team of people can we all enjoy the richness that is the American heritage."

"Brotherhood is more than a word," Mr. Vail stated. "It is the spirit that recognizes the human dignity of every man. It is the effort we make to help the individual achieve his full potential. It is the action we take to insure equal opportunity and liberty for all."

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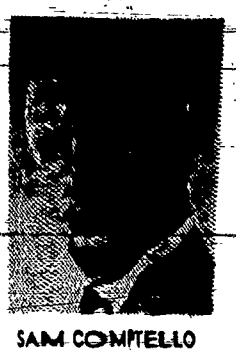
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MEXIC

Bishops

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