

2 Catholic Conferences and Their Difference

Who speaks for "the Church" in the U.S.? Catholics often read about the activities and decisions of the U.S. Bishops' conference, but a national agency through which the Catholic Bishops and the "United States Catholic Conference" differ in their structure and functions are outlined in the following article:

By FLOYD ANDERSON
(NC News Service Editor)
The United States Catholic Conference is not a bishops' conference, but a national agency through which the Catholic Bishops and the "United States Catholic Conference" differ in their structure and functions are outlined in the following article:

The USCC deals with issues that are primarily in the domain of public affairs of society at large: education, social welfare, economics, in-

ternational programs, etc. It also serves as a means by which the bishops join with all the people of God, who themselves have a direct interest and responsibility in public affairs, in launching programs of Christian concern.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops is a formal episcopal conference, as envisioned by the Vatican Council's Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church.
The NCCB deals with those matters which are the direct, and almost the exclusive, responsibility for dealing with matters of public affairs, for instance, or of education or in labor relations, is exercised in cooperation with the clergy, Religious and laity who are involved in these aspects of public life and have a knowledgeable competence in them.

The NCCB meet — about 250 bishops as a committee of the whole — twice a year, once in November in Washington, and again in April, in a different city each year.

This year's meeting will be held in Houston, April 14-17.
At these meetings the bishops discuss and reach decisions on an agenda of topics which require their attention, prepared by the NCCB general secretariat, and approved by the NCCB administrative committee.

Officers of the NCCB are Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, president; John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia, vice president; John Cardinal Cody of Chicago, treasurer; and Bishop Ernest L. Untermyer of Charleston, S.C., secretary. The NCCB general secretariat is headed by Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin as general secretary.

In addition to the 40 elected bishops on the NCCB administrative committee, the cardinals of the U.S. are ex-officio members. From this committee were elected members of the various executive level and for the standing and ad hoc committees on the general membership level.

The executive level committees, in addition to the administrative committee, are the committees on budget and finance, personnel and administrative services, and research, plans and programs.

The standing committees are: American Board of Catholic Missions, Bishops' Welfare Emergency Relief Committee, Boundaries of Dioceses and Provinces, Canonical Affairs and Doctrine, Also Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs, Liaison Committee for Priests, Religious and Laity, Liturgy, Men Religious, Missions, National Office for Deaf Literature, North-American College in Rome, Pastoral Research and Practices, Priestly Formation, Propagation of the Faith, To Complete the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and Women Religious. There are also 11 NCCB ad hoc committees.

All members of these committees are bishops. In the USCC, in contrast, there are bishops, priests, Religious and laity on many of the various committees.

The organizational structure of the United States Catholic Conference has five departments: Christian Formation, Health Affairs, Communications, Social Development, and International Affairs. Each has a departmental committee, composed of bishops, clergy, Religious and laity, designed to guide the divisions within each department in broad-policy matters.

An interesting aspect of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops is the Bishops' Liaison Committee for Priests, Religious and Laity, headed by Lawrence Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore. It might be described as a "transmission belt" or "listening post," since its function primarily is to listen to organizations which have a matter they wish to present to the bishops, and then deliver to the body of bishops quite objectively whatever has been presented.

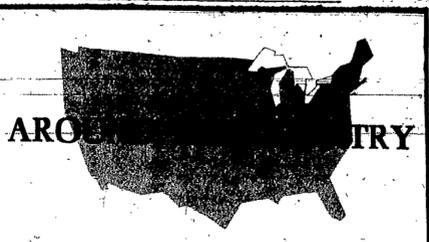
In other words, this committee must give to the bishops what has been presented to it by other organizations, people or groups. It cannot,

by the terms of its organization, editorialize in its presentation; it naturally has the right, after its presentation, to make its own comments.

Outwardly, to the casual observer, the NCCB and USCC may seem to be much the same. They have the same officers, the same administrative organizations, are generally headquartered in the same building at 1512 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington. But they are intrinsically different.

NCCB is an assembly of the bishops of the United States through which they jointly exercise their pastoral office, with, at times, under certain carefully specified limitations and in certain specified areas, a jurisdictional competence.

USCC, as an agency of the bishops, is a voluntary association of the bishops through which the bishops, clergy, Religious and laity might make prudential judgments on matters of mutual responsibility and exercise the influence of the visible Church in an institutional and secular world.



Baptists Call Negro Pastor

Hulbert, Mich. — (RNS) — For what is believed to be the first time in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention, a predominantly white Southern Baptist congregation has ordained and called a Negro minister as its pastor.
The Rev. Ray Wolfe, a native of North Carolina and veteran of 20 years in the Army and Air Force, was ordained to the ministry by the Hulbert Baptist church and called to be its pastor.
W. T. Moore, secretary of interracial work for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, said he believes Mr. Wolfe to be the only Negro pastor serving an otherwise all-white church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Boston Stressing 'Right To Life'

Boston — (NC) — Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston plans to combat the nationwide effort to relax state abortion laws. He has announced that speakers will visit 18 areas of the archdiocese during Lent to discuss "The Right to Life."
Cardinal Cushing said: "I am sincerely disturbed by the nationwide effort to influence the thinking of people to accept the legitimacy of abortion."
"I firmly believe it is my responsibility to counteract this effort by bringing to the attention of our people the respect that is owed to innocent human life wherever, or in whatever condition, it is found."

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1968 a Busy Year at Hornell Hospital

Hornell — St. James Mercy Hospital, now in its 79th year, had its busiest year in 1968.

In noting hospital activities of the past year, officials pointed especially to the opening of the West Wing, the multi-million dollar addition which was started in the spring of 1966. This new facility houses the extended care rehabilitation, medical and maternity suites and the rehabilitation center, which includes physical, occupational and speech therapy departments; also the central supply, decontamination and sterilization areas, pharmacy and purchasing departments.

Last year saw the opening of DeSales Hall, the School of Nursing education building containing classrooms, library and offices. The hospital cafeteria was enlarged and redecorated. The medical records department was relocated and enlarged.

Work commenced on additional departments for the laboratory and x-ray departments, while remodeling of pediatrics and the pre-and-post-operative unit got underway. Ground was broken and construction started on a doctors' office building. These areas are scheduled for completion during 1969.

A new transportation and communication system was initiated and a new switchboard system doubling the capacity of the old was installed.

The hospital sponsored many educational programs for area health personnel. In-service programs increased, and hospital personnel attended educational institutes sponsored by the American Hospital Association, The Catholic Hospital Association and programs at university medical schools to keep abreast of the latest improvements in medical and scientific advancement.

To improve services, the hospital added its own laboratory servicing both in and out patients. The outpatient center was opened, making registration easier for patients referred to the hospital for treatment, diagnostic work or counseling. A unit manager was appointed to coordinate all non-nursing duties, releasing the nurse for actual care of patients.

Personnel participated in many community projects and the hospital cooperated with many of the local health agencies and organizations. An award, the local hospital's 12th, was received in recognition of the effectiveness of its safety programs.

Statistics show that there were 41,894 patient days in 1968 as compared to 37,307 in 1967. Emergency room visits went from 5,199 to 5,946, while physical therapy patient visits totaled 13,637, a big increase over the 11,469 of the previous year. Inhalation therapy provided

treatments for 895 patients as compared to 793 in '67.

The intensive coronary care unit administered to 436 patients as compared with 367 the year before. Electrocardiograms went from 1839 to 2601. The only decrease noted was in the number of births, which totaled 379 as compared to 401 the previous year.

The dietary department served 223,023 meals. The laundry processed 499,606 pounds of linens, while the pharmacy handled 56,580 prescriptions. The maintenance department handled 3900 routine requisitions plus daily emergency calls. Candy strippers gave 1,031 hours of service and adult volunteers hours totaled 4,169.

The number of employees at the present time is 375, as compared to the 277 at the same period last year. The 1968 payroll was \$1,430,931 and the average cost of operating the hospital for one day was \$5,546.

Cana Conferences Scheduled at Mt. Carmel High

Auburn—Married couples have been invited to three Cana Conferences on alternate Sunday nights at Mt. Carmel High School. Sessions will be from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The Cana program is sponsored by the Family Life Bureau of the diocesan Eastern Vicariate, under the direction of Father John J. Glogowski, assistant pastor of Holy Family Church here.

Conducting the conferences will be Father Daniel V. Hogan, pastor of St. Bernard's Church, Scipio Center, and his missions at Genoa and Fleming. Dates and topics:

Feb. 23—Psychology of Husband and Wife; Mar. 9—Sex in Marriage; Mar. 23—Parent-Child Relationships.

HORNELL AREA MEN SCHEDULE RETREATS

Hornell—Robert Kennedy of Canandaigua, a member of the speaker's bureau of the Men's Retreat Movement, will address local retreatants Sunday, March 9, at their annual communion breakfast. The breakfast, in the Knights of Columbus Home, will follow a 8:30 Mass.

Area members will meet also on the previous Sunday, March 2, at 3 p.m., in St. Ann's School. Reservations are being taken by Louis Bellanca of St. Ann's, Thomas Gibson of St. Ignace and other officers for the mid-week businessmen's retreat scheduled for March 4-6 at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua.

April 25 is the date set for this area's special retreat. John F. Murphy of 33 Davenport St. is the area coordinator for these programs.

Minor Seminaries May Amalgamate

Silver Spring, Md. — (NC) — Possibilities of amalgamating minor seminaries in the United States were discussed by 55 priests from some 30 dioceses and religious communities during a meeting at Holy Trinity Mission Seminary here.

The delegates decided "amalgamation" is a broad term, indicating every variety of cooperation from sharing of personnel and facilities to total fusion of seminaries into one institution. Such terms as collaboration, coalition and consortium were used to describe some forms of amalgamation.

The priests expressed urgency over the fact that some minor seminaries are in danger of closing due to declining enrollment, economic and manpower problems. Other minor seminaries, now

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LANGUAGE LISTENING LEARNERS—Sister Agnes Mary, SSJ, operates new equipment in the "listening center" at Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca.

AROUND THE WORLD

Ithaca School
Installs New Equipment
Ithaca — New equipment has been installed in Immaculate Conception School here to expand audio-visual teaching resources.

Bombing of Monastery Recalled

Vatican City — (NC) — The Vatican City newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, has charged on the 25th anniversary of the destruction of Monte Cassino that there was no military justification for assaulting the ancient monastery.
L'Osservatore recalled that the Holy See had urged the World War II Allies to spare the monastery, founded by St. Benedict himself.

The Allies' air raids, the newspaper said, caused the death of many of the civilian refugees who had thronged to the abbey, while, as all now admit, it brought no advantage to the Allies.
"On the contrary, their task was made more arduous because German paratroopers occupied the ruins and held their position there for three months despite the trial of virtually daily air raids."

U.S. Trained African Convicted

Salisbury, Rhodesia — (RNS) — The Rev. Ndabani Sithole, a minister of the United Church of Christ in Rhodesia and an African nationalist leader, has been sentenced here to six years in prison on charges of conspiracy to murder Premier Ian Smith and two cabinet members.

The clergyman is a leader in the banned Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). He had been held in prison for four years and was accused of conspiracy through a letter he was alleged to have written to outside contacts.

"I wish publicly to dissociate my name, in thought, word and deed, from any subversive activities, from any terrorist activities, and from any form of violence," Mr. Sithole told the court.
Mr. Sithole was educated at Andover Newton Theological Seminary, Newton Centre, Mass. He has a daughter at Columbia University in New York.

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