

# PEOPLE AND EVENTS

## Obscenity War Urged By Laverne

(Continued from Page 1)

scene materials has put constant roadblocks in the way of eliminating much of what the average community believes to be morally objectionable.

"Try as we may," he stated, "we will never, through law, equal legal and moral standards in dealing with obscenity." He pointed out however that vigorous efforts to "turn the tide" of court interpretation must continue.

The CDC has contacted families of the North Clinton Avenue community where the Lyric Theater, another member of the DEB chain, has long shown "arty films" without police interference. The Lyric management has been asked for "a change of policy" in the name of neighborhood decency.

A meeting of all who have signed the CDC petitions against movie obscenity and all others interested in combating other pornography is slated for Sunday, March 23 at 8 p.m. in the Gates-Chill Central School on Wegman Road, Mrs. Mulhern announced.

Further information may be obtained by writing Citizens for a Decent Community, Box 9798, Rochester, 14623.

## Pope Asks Prayers For European Unity

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI in his last major public appearance before the beginning of his week-long Lenten retreat, asked for prayers to promote European unity.

He said that this objective requires a "new moral atmosphere" and "a new mentality in relations among nations."

This "cannot be a mentality of discord, hegemony or nationalistic egoism," he said, "but it can be that of peaceful equilibrium in co-existence founded on a balance between defensive and offensive powers."

The Pope's remarks apparently were in reference to new tensions arising within the six nations of the European Common Market because of French President Charles de Gaulle's opposition to British membership in the Common Market.

The French President reportedly said that he had little faith in the Common Market and suggested a larger free-trade area in Europe, including England, with an "inner directorate" composed of the four major West European powers: France, England, West Germany and Italy.

## IRELAND

### Bishops Cite Dangers of Contraception

Dublin — (NC) — A change in the Church's teaching on contraception would imperil its "beautiful and inspiring" doctrine of marriage and human love, the bishops of Ireland declared in their joint Lenten pastoral.

The bishops said in their letter, which was devoted exclusively to the subject of Christian marriage, that Pope Paul VI, in his encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, "felt obliged in conscience, not just as one theologian arguing with others, but by virtue of the mandate entrusted to him by Christ, to reaffirm the Church's traditional condemnation of contraception."

"This decision was forced on him mainly because four years of the most intensive investigation and discussion made one thing unmistakably plain," the pastoral said, "namely, that the entire doctrine of the Church about marriage is a coherent whole and that radical alteration of one part entails dismemberment of the whole."

"The morality of sterilization, abortion, even of adultery and premarital sex," they added, "are inevitably involved in the logic of argument about contraception."

"Contraception," the pastoral said, "alters the very meaning of sexuality, on which the meaning and value of marriage are based. If we can separate sexual activity from its procreative meaning there is no reason why we could not separate it also from its full unitive meaning. In other words, it would become impossible to find a decisive reason for condemning the use of sex outside of marriage."

"If the meanings and values of sex can be artificially divided by contraception, there seems no reason why they cannot be divided from marriage altogether," the bishops said.

Stating marriage and married love are a continuation of the union with Christ that begins in Baptism, the pastoral said many find acceptance of the Church's teaching on contraception a "real hardship."

"Realizing the grave difficulties facing Christian marriage in the modern world," the bishops said, "we call upon priests and people for a massive effort of Christian support for married people and for young families."

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"Pre-marriage courses, marriage counseling, both spiritual, psychological and medical, and supportive programs for overburdened, ill or underprivileged couples and families are now urgent priorities of the Christian apostolate. They are also, in a Christian society, obvious areas for more generous and enlightened social welfare involvement at the level of both central and local authority," the pastoral said.

## CANADA

### Optional Celibacy Proposed by Priests

Ottawa, Ont. — (RNS) — Roman Catholic priests meeting here voted 159 to 41 in favor of optional celibacy for clergy and those seeking ordination.

More than 300 priests from Canada's central dioceses attended the Conference on the Role of the Priest in Contemporary Canadian Society. They heard a London, Ont., priest say that a priest who remains celibate without feeling the "zeal and urgency of Christ is like a half-lit neon sign."

Father Marcel Gervais added, "And there's nothing quite as repulsive as a half-lit neon sign."

One of three panelists who led a discussion that included questions from the audience, Father Gervais said the celibacy issue could not be separated from the "serious and real problem as to the very purpose and meaning of Christ and Christianity."

Father Dan Donovan of Toronto, Ont., said celibacy is a major issue in the priesthood today, but that it is not the key to all the problems of priests. He suggested that some Protestant churches were losing more ministers than the Roman Catholic Church in Canada.

Father A. L. Nolan of Windsor, Ont., said he knew a few ex-priests who had married and were anxious to serve the Church in some way.

The priests also voted in favor of a resolution that stated whenever there is a pastoral need, married men who are respected in their communities should be ordained into the priesthood to serve at least on a part-time basis.

Those voting said they would like the Canadian bishops to "institute a careful and complete scientific study of celibacy in the context of the Canadian Church." This should be based on a study of the life and ministry of Canadian priests, he added.

## Parish Councils Urged By Archbishop Cooke

New York — (RNS) — Archbishop Terence J. Cooke of New York has asked pastors of the archdiocese to establish parish councils "in the near future."

In a letter read at all Masses, the archbishop noted that the Vatican Council had urged establishment of such councils on parish and diocesan levels.

"I am convinced," he said, "that each parish should now begin to set up its parish council so that the parish apostolate may be enriched by the common thinking and working of all its members — priests, religious and laity."

A committee was established last September "to study the process and recommend the best methods" for setting up parish councils. The subject was also discussed at the December clergy conference, Archbishop Cooke said.

"The parish council," he said, "is not intended to supplant existing parish societies nor to hinder the effectiveness of the good work for souls being done by our pastors."

Rather, he said, it seeks to study and resolve the problems of the Christian community by bringing together the parish family of priests, religious and laity.

"In time," the archbishop said, "we look forward to the establishment of an archdiocesan council with representation from various councils."

## Whew!

Bolzano, Italy — (RNS) — The end of the world, originally scheduled for Feb. 20, has been postponed to March 17 in order to give more people time to repent, Maria Staffler, the leader of a new religious sect, said here.

The followers of the 70-year-old prophetess spent Feb. 20 on a mountain here awaiting the arrival of flying saucers which were supposed to carry them away to "the planet of Mary" before the destruction of the earth. The sect has begun erecting barbed-wire defenses against journalists and public authorities.

St. Louis — (RNS) — secretary of schools for Missouri Synod Lutheran Church has published a survey in the Lutheran Witness Reporter here which indicates state aid to non-public schools is expanding.

William A. Kramer collected his information from questionnaires sent to "chief state school officials" in the 50 states during center and January.

"The United States Congress and state legislatures," Kramer said, "will be working increasingly with problems of church-related schools in constitutional practical terms."

Kramer lists 30 states which provide no aid church-related schools or provide such a limited form of assistance that "essentially they offer no aid."

Thus, he explained, "Michigan provides bus transportation for handicapped children."

## Rocky Praises Parish Parents

Watertown — (NC) — Rockefeller of New York a "Town Meeting" here parents who have both taxes and supported non-public schools "have done a terrific job."

Replying to a statement Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzycki of Ogdensburg on the need for public financial aid church-related schools, Rockefeller said: "This is a common problem because responsibility is for all children that they should the best education. If the figures run that if parochial schools were there and all the children were in public schools cost would be between a million and \$800 million per year."

Rockefeller said his administration, in conjunction with the State Board of Regents, has agreed to appoint a commission to study the city-cost and financing of public and private primary and secondary school education in New York State.

## State

By WILLIAM RYAN (NC News Service) — Washington — A course has developed among Catholic officials that school cuts, consolidations, g cutbacks and a host of measures now in use represent a "band-aid" approach to the critical financial problems of the parochial school system.

Many believe that state aid will stop the massive loss of Catholic school students into the nation's crowded and overburdened public schools.

The leakage has been matized with increasing frequency in recent weeks dioceses after dioceses announced what is generally termed a "reorganization" of school system. The "reorganization" usually means that dozen or so of the schools in the diocese will close year, and that perhaps that number, or in some cases more, will be merged into single units.

Boston — (RNS) — Massachusetts Council of Churches, made up of 122 Protestant denominations, asked the Legislature to study the possible effect public funding of sectarian schools.

Main reason for a study, according to Dr. James M. Council Legislative Historian, is "to prevent piecemeal action on the part of the Legislature in this timely unexplored area out knowledge of the consequences."

Protestant churches unlikely to alter their traditional opposition to public aid for sectarian schools, they want the issue cleared, Dr. Nash said.

The Council said the Legislature should consider whether aid will open the gates for a proliferation of religious schools, which public schools would be to absorb additional pupils. Catholic schools claim whether aid will damage public schools by taking tax dollars away from them. It suggested study of the den upon parents who both parochial tuition taxes to support public schools.

The Council noted that Catholic schools in Boston to close the city will have to educate 35,744 children.

Milwaukee — (RNS) — proposal that Wisconsin state grants to parochial private and parochial school children was opposed.



Archbishop Honored

Roman Catholic Archbishop Thomas A. Boland, right, is shown receiving a Brotherhood Award from the New Jersey Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Making the presentation is Irving J. Felst, region co-chairman. NCCJ unit honored Archbishop Boland for "selfless service and leadership in philanthropic, educational and civic causes." Outside the hotel where ceremony was held a group of 150 pickets, blacks and whites protested the honor, supporting 20 priests who recently accused the archdiocese of "racist attitudes." (RNS)

Father Leo L. Henkel, a retired Catholic pastor in Peru, Ill., has announced he will run for mayor. Father Henkel, who has long urged his parishioners to get involved in community affairs, said, "If I didn't believe a clergyman should talk about public matters, I would be going contrary to my life's work." Richard Cardinal Cushing was left a pectoral cross in the will of Augustin Cardinal Bea who died Nov. 15.

President Nixon has sent a message to Pope Paul, thanking him for the Pope's message of encouragement on Nixon's election. Sister Helen Kelly of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters in Los Angeles is the only woman among 20 recipients of Danforth Foundation grants. Four laymen and a priest have been named to the 25-member board of directors of Boston College.

NECROLOGY — Walter Valentine, 68, former professor of civil engineering at Catholic University, Feb. 20, after a long illness; Kenneth Olson, 82, Lutheran layman credited with first suggesting a National Bible Week.

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