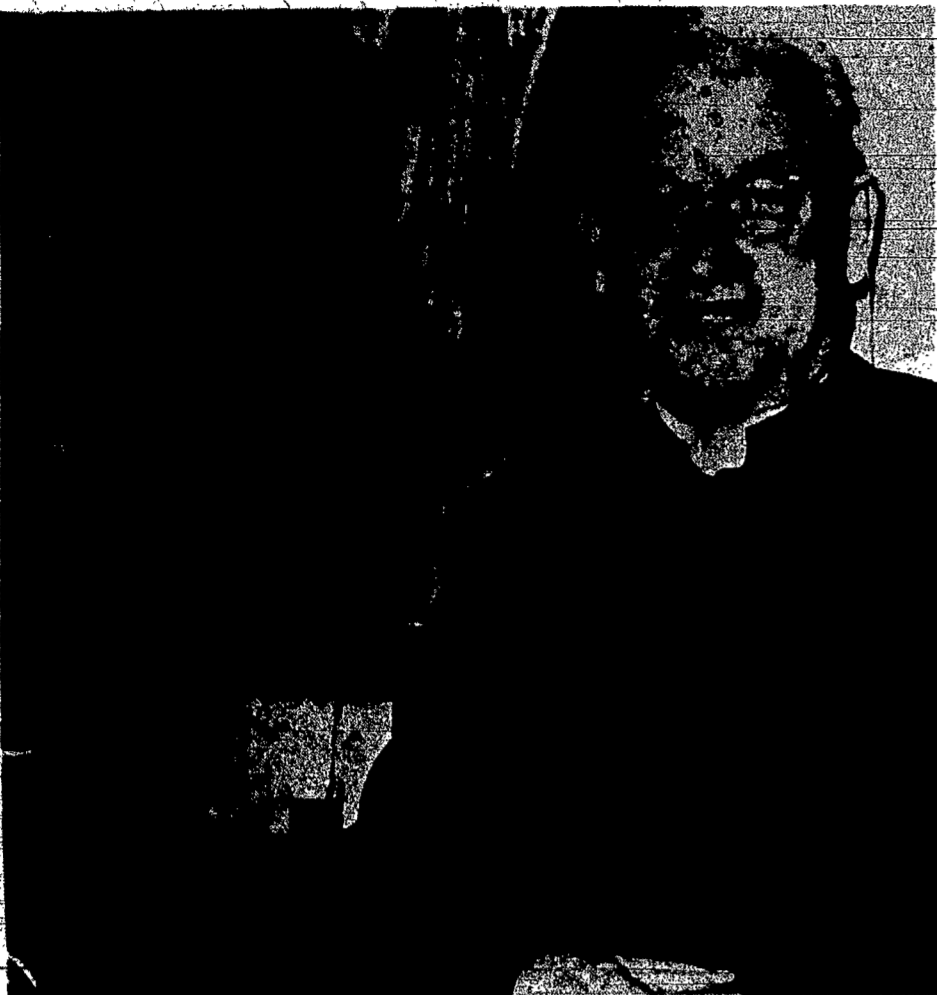


PEOPLE AND EVENTS



Candidate for Mayor

Father Leo L. Henkel, a retired Roman Catholic priest in Peru, Ill., who announced his candidacy for mayor of the town 90 miles southwest of Chicago. Father Henkel opposed three other candidates in the Peru mayoralty primary Mar. 4, finishing third. (RNS)

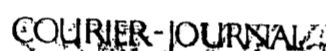
Evangelist Billy Graham has been preaching in New Zealand. Dr. Leopoldo Juan Nilus, a Buenos Aires lawyer, has been named director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, a World Council of Churches agency.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK — "It is striking that most governments and educational authorities, whatever their political and social systems, are attaching more importance to the teaching of morals, ethics, spiritual values, love of peace and solidarity with the rest of mankind." —UNESCO document on education.

NECROLOGY — Gustavo Cardinal Testi, 82, former prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Church and a long-time friend of Pope John XXIII. Dr. Karl Jaspers, 86, existentialist philosopher who was also a physician-psychiatrist.

ABORTION FIGURES

London — (NC) — Reporting on abortions performed by the British National Health Service last year, the British Ministry of Health said that 41 per cent of the 14,564 abortions involved unmarried women, of whom 19 per cent were under 18 years of age.



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Baltimore Hospitals

Cite Maryland

'Abortion Mill'

Baltimore — (RNS) — Three major Baltimore hospitals, expressing fear that Maryland is becoming an "abortion mill," have restricted such operations to state residents.

Since last July when a liberal abortion bill became law there has been a large influx of out-of-state residents seeking to terminate pregnancies, it was reported by doctors here.

Most of the abortions are performed in the interest of the mental health of the mother, this includes any circumstances that would impair her mental health or her ability to function normally.

"We've been absolutely swamped," Dr. Allan C. Barnes, chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, said. He noted that he gets an average of 17 out-of-state phone calls a day seeking abortions.

Under Maryland law, a pregnancy may be terminated in cases of incest or rape, or when it will result in the birth of a mentally or physically retarded child, or impair the physical or mental health of the mother.

ECUMENICAL GOOD DEED

Auckland, New Zealand — (NC) — A 20-year-old Muslim from Malaysia, Abdul Aziz, was the first patient to use the new open heart surgery unit at Mater Misericordia Hospital here. The unit was donated to the Catholic institution by a non-Catholic, Sir William Stevenson. Aziz, given a valve replacement, left the hospital three weeks after his operation.

SORCERY CONSIDERED

Noumea, New Caledonia — (NC) — The revival of sorcery here was a topic of concern for the diocesan synod which was held Feb. 3-5.

Sex Education Course Defended

(Continued from Page 1)

Their signed statement in the Auburn Citizen Advertiser defended "the competency of the Church as the teacher of morality."

The united pastors said: "We stand firmly behind sex education in the Catholic schools. We will help in any way to promote and deepen the effectiveness of this program."

Father Nacca, who rejected the sex education program last fall for St. Francis' pupils when it began in more than 100 other parochial schools of the diocese, said from his pulpit on Feb. 23: "Sex education in the Catholic schools—puts the children in an occasion of sin. It teaches too much too soon."

"It descends to details of anatomy in mixed classes which are really sickening and disgusting. It opens avenues of temptation and sin which the child did not even know existed. The few behind this program are in a terrible hurry to give too much at too early an age."

Criticism from dissenting parents was that children in a particular grade, not being of the same background and maturity, should not be given indiscriminate information about sex too soon and in too detailed a way. Many held that the schools should not preempt the parents' duty to give sex information.

Dr. Gerard T. Guerinet, Rochester physician, chairman of the 13-member committee that prepared the syllabus in 1967, said that the sex education material offered "a carefully planned program beginning with simple concepts in the lower grades, getting more specific as the pupil matures."

The material was to be taught with in various class-subjects, as opposed to being a separate sex-course.

His committee, commissioned by Bishop Sheen and Msgr. William M.

Roche, diocesan superintendent of schools, comprised 7 parents (among them a doctor, a college professor and a social worker), 9 priests and 3 Sisters.

Their first syllabus, tested in a pilot program in 13 parochial schools in the Spring semester of 1968 was revised and adjusted during the summer before being offered to the whole school system last September.

Father Brent insisted this week that no school was allowed to begin the courses last Fall until there had been general meetings for all parents to explain the contents and goals of the course and then meetings for parents of the separate grades to help them anticipate what their children would be receiving.

"Parents who came to these meetings knew exactly what the course was trying to do and why," he said. "We encountered very little opposition after we discussed their criticisms."

Msgr. Roche, defending the establishment of a diocesan program on sex information, stated that New York State Education Department has mandated such a course beginning in 1970.

"Social indicators," he said, "point to the immediate need to develop a realistic social conscience toward human sexuality. Basic to the formation of the Christian conscience is the need for reliable information."

Discussing the teachers who must use the diocesan syllabus, he said: "The Christian teacher must approach such responsibilities as are properly assumed by the school believing that facts ally fears and suspicions; that the open discussion of the beauty of Christian sexuality takes sex out of the gutter, and that a prayerful attitude refers the most beautiful and intimate of human relationships to God, Whose love it reflects."

Father Brent stated that a detailed survey taken after the Spring pilot program ended drew 1,650 responses from parents with only 5.9 percent disapproving of what the children had studied.

Many had suggestions for improving the courses he said, but opposition came "mostly from parents who had not attended the explanatory meetings, or those who objected to the amount of material taught in the school."

The Auburn controversy, exploding five months after the diocesan schools began to use the sex syllabus, was triggered by unfavorable publicity about the Rochester course in a Syracuse newspaper on Feb. 17, 18, 19.

The Syracuse diocesan school system, borrowing the Rochester diocesan syllabus for a pilot program in a few schools, had only begun preliminary meetings with parents' groups when lay criticism sent to the diocesan consultants of Bishop Walter A. Foery prompted a termination of the program for "restudy."

The Syracuse Herald-American then disclosed the contents of the proposed program in a 3-part series, criticized by Msgr. Thomas J. Costello, diocesan Superintendent of Schools, as "deliberately designed to misrepresent and to be sensational."

The articles were filled with "half-truths," he said, and were "shot through with much misinformation and inflammatory statements." He called the reporting an "apparently deliberate effort to mislead."

Auburnians who read the Syracuse articles revealing parts of the Rochester syllabus out of context and separate from the explanations required for its proper understanding, were additionally disturbed by the verbal controversy between Father Nacca and his fellow pastors over the fitness of the courses for their schools.

INTRODUCING



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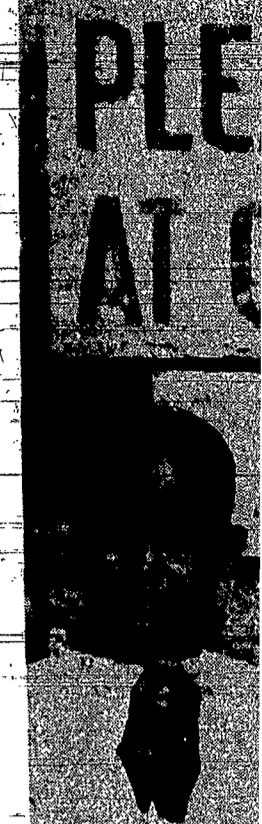
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By FR. R. A. G... Special Corre

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NCC Expect To Oppose

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