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## Pope Raps Defectors In Church

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul compared the passion of Christ to the continuing sorrows of the Church in the modern world where it is often denied its legitimate freedom, is criticized by its own faithful and deserted by some of its priests.

In a Holy Week sermon, one of his strongest condemnations yet, Pope Paul said the Roman Catholic Church "suffers from the defection and scandal of certain ecclesiastics and religious who crucify the Church today."

"The Church suffers above all from the restless, non-docile and destructive criticism of many of its sons — beloved priests, preachers and laymen dedicated to the service and witness of the living Christ."

These, the Pope said, "now turn against its intimate and indispensable communion, against its institutional existence, its canonical norms, tradition and its internal cohesion, and also against its authority, unity and charity, against its very needs of sanctity and sacrifice."

He described the image of the Church created by the Vatican Council as "a comforting and positive Christianity which is a friend of life, of men, of earthly values themselves, of our history and our society."

"We might almost see in the Council," he said, "an intention of rendering Christianity more acceptable, lovable and indulgent — an open Christianity devoid of all pessimistic interpretation and forms of medieval feature."

"How can the living, true Church be authentic and persevering if the inner union that forms and defines the Mystical Body, spiritual and social, is today so often and so gravely corroded by contestation or by forgetfulness of its hierarchical structure and counterfeited in its pastoral authority?"

"How can it claim to be the Church that is a united people when an agitation that is practically schismatic divides it, subdivides it, breaks it into groups that are jealous of an arbitrary and at root selfish autonomy, masked as Christian pluralism or as freedom of conscience? How can it be constructed by an activity that would call itself apostolic while deliberately steered by centrifugal tendencies?"

"They speak still of the Church, and of the Catholic Church, our Church. But can we say to ourselves that that Church in its members and its institutions and its activity is truly animated by that sincere spirit of union and charity that renders it worthy of celebrating, without hypocrisy and without routine dullness, our most holy daily Mass?"

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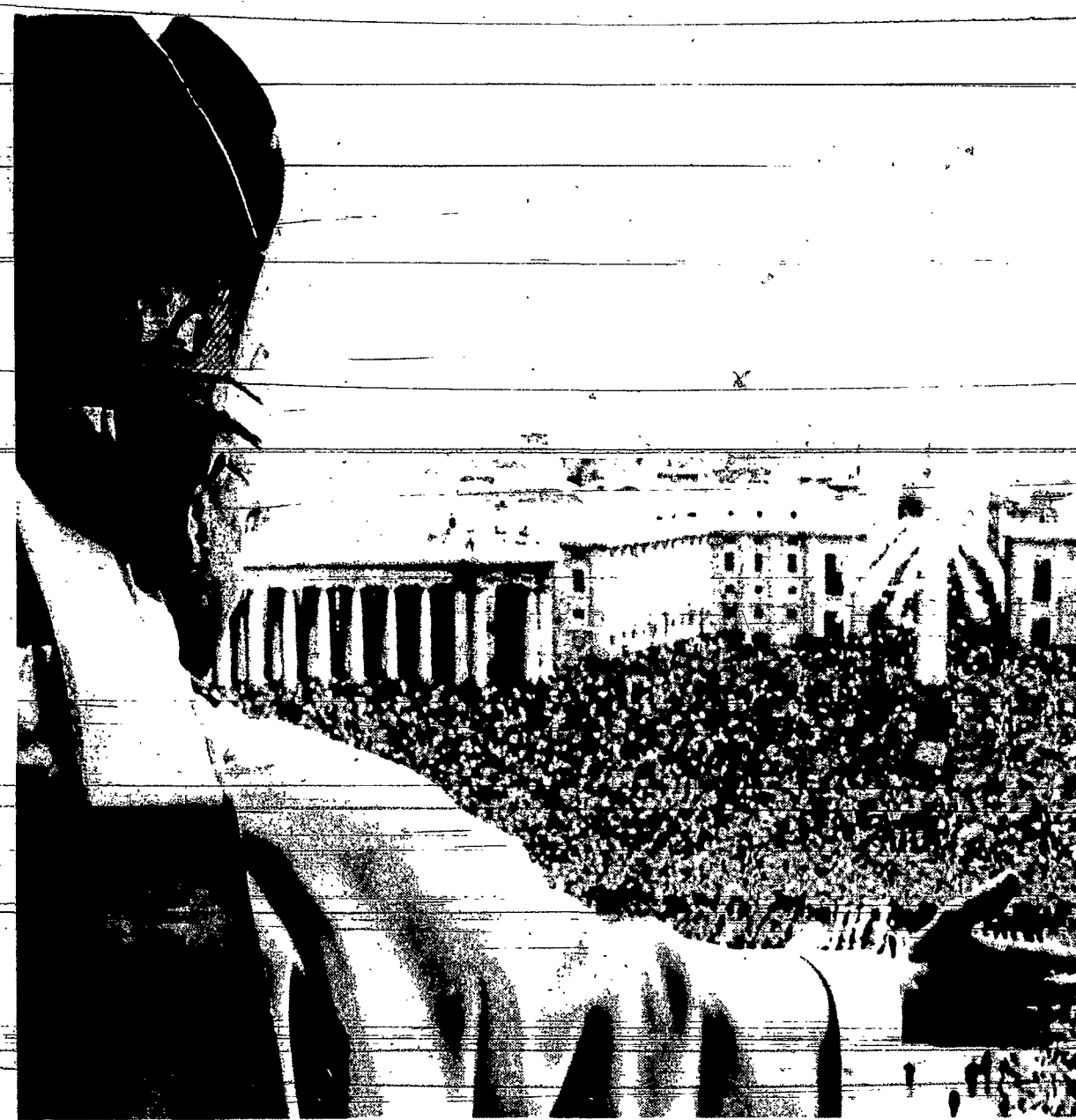
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## A Contrast in Easter Viewpoints



Young black men in Atlanta (above) looking backward to slave days are seen carrying crosses to commemorate the late Dr. Martin Luther King who died for racial justice. Pope Paul (below) addressing 250,000 in the plaza before St. Peter's Basilica said that the source of joy in life and in eternity is the teaching of Christ through His Church.



## Mother of Mongoloid Hits Abortion

By EDGAR BARMANN  
(NC News Service)

Columbus, Ohio — Is the prospect of having a mentally retarded child a good reason to have an abortion?

Mrs. Kenneth Craig of Youngstown, Ohio, testifying before an Ohio legislature committee here, answered with an emphatic "No."

Mrs. Craig is the mother of six, one of whom is Breen, a mongoloid, mentally retarded boy of 11. She said she experienced "heartache and pain" when she learned her newborn son in 1958 was mentally retarded.

But since then, life with a mongoloid child she said, "has come to mean something very different than what we ever imagined or hoped it could be."

With state legislators scheduled to reconvene next Tuesday, April 15, and with possibility of debate soon thereafter on attempts to loosen the abortion law, the diocesan Right To Life Committee this week again urged persons concerned about this issue to write their state senators and assemblymen. (Addresses on page 2)

"The beauty of the child is really his simplicity and openness. Many times in the midst of our retarded son's confusion, he brings us back to normalcy. It is difficult to tell you all that he has done for the family, each and every one of us. But that is why I am here, to reciprocate in some small measure. I want to be able to share with you the respect we have for our son so that in some way, the beauty of his humanness will dispell your thoughts of the hideousness of the defective retarded child . . . and human he is, yes."

Before her son's birth, Mrs. Craig said, her standards were set on "intellectual accomplishments and excellence" for her children. She declared: "Beauty, I'm afraid, was based much on their appearance and social acceptance. The reality of retarded children or of poverty was the farthest thing from my mind. It certainly had no place in our well insulated corner of the world."

Have the past 11 years been worthwhile?

"Yes," said Mrs. Craig, "my standards, my values, my sense of what is beautiful, my acceptance of reality today, now have meaning. These years have been fruitful. The reality of Breen took us out of our insulated world and opened many closed doors to our hearts. We broke out of those walls and saw the needs of other human beings. As a result of this, we became actively involved in social justice in the world around us."

## U.S. Bishops Plan To Discuss Wide Range of Subjects

Washington—(NC)—New procedures for solving marriage cases brought to diocesan courts and for arbitrating disputes between priests and their Bishops are expected to come from the semi-annual meeting of all U.S. Bishops in Houston next week.

Headliners for the three-day gathering beginning Wednesday, April 15 will be Cardinal-designate John F. Dearden of Detroit, president of the National Council of Bishops, speaking on "The Future of the U.S. Church" and Cardinal-designate John J. Wright, of Pittsburgh on "The Church in Urban America."

Among the committee reports expected, with hopes for decisions about future action are:

- Committee on Vocations reporting on the vocation crisis in the nation and suggesting establishment of a national center to promote religious life.

- Committee on the Diaconate presenting a progress report on plans to enlist and train men for a permanent diaconate role in diocesan life.

- Ad Hoc Committee on Arbitration presenting principals and procedures to be followed in the establishment of arbitration boards to hear clergy grievances and adjudicate conflicts between priests and Bishops.

- Committee on Priestly Formation reporting on guidelines prepared for academic programs in seminary administration.

- Committee on Canon Law suggesting possible simplifying of pro-

cedures for handling marriage cases brought before diocesan tribunals.

- Liaison Committee reporting on meetings held in the name of all the Bishops with various groups, including National Federation of Priests' Councils, Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, National Councils of Catholic Men and Women.

### Canadian Bishops Also Due to Meet

Ottawa — (NC) — The Canadian bishops will assemble here April 14-18 for the semi-annual meeting of the Canadian Catholic Conference. Workshops, commission, sector, provincial and regional meetings will be held by both English and French sectors.

Among the items to be discussed at the general assemblies are: simplification of marriage procedures, a Canadian pastoral council, role of the priest today, follow-up to Humanae Vitae, program for seminaries, Canadian Secretariat for Non-believers, the Synod of Bishops, and national collections.

## Catholic U. Teachers Cleared of Charges

Washington, D.C. — (RNS)—Some 21 faculty members of the Catholic University of America have been cleared by the Faculty Senate of charges that they acted unprofessionally in opposing Pope Paul's ban on birth control last year, a Washington paper revealed this week.

The teachers had issued a statement in early August upholding the right of Catholic laity to follow their own consciences, after careful consideration even if they decided to use so-called artificial contraceptives.

Issued shortly after the publication of the Pope's encyclical, the statement was endorsed by some 600 Catholic theologians and scholars in related fields. Promoters of the "conscience" statement were Father Charles Curran, a professor of moral theology, Father Robert Hunt, professor of ecclesiology, and Father Daniel Maguire of the religious education depart, all at Catholic University.

Father Curran, a priest of the Rochester Diocese, was formerly theology professor at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington and ex-officio chancellor of the university, called for the investigation on the grounds that the dissenting faculty members had violated the special obligation they owed the Pope as members of a pontifical university.

According to the Washington Post and Times-Herald, the Faculty Senate approved the findings of the committee prior to the Easter recess but had not made it public pending the April meeting of the university's board of trustees in Houston, in conjunction with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' semi-annual meeting.

None of the participants in the dispute would comment on the Senate action pending official release of the report.

It was learned that the report exonerates the teachers and states that there are no grounds for dismissing them.

The Post said it also reportedly criticizes the university's trustees for failing to show proper concern for the principles of academic freedom. It is also critical of the university's then acting rector, Father John P. Whalen, for not offering a more vigorous defense of the teachers when some trustees first started to talk of dismissing the dissenting theologians.

## 200,000 Hear Pope on Easter

Vatican City — (NC) — An estimated crowd of over 200,000 gathered in St. Peter's Square Easter Sunday morning to join Pope Paul VI in the celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

After a week of rain and bad weather, Rome was brightened by a hesitant sun during the Pope's annual outdoor Mass in front of the great basilica.

The Easter ceremonies in the square had a true international flavor. Although the body of the Mass was celebrated by the Pope in Latin, the epistle was read in English, and the Gradual and Gospel in French.

After the huge throng sang the Credo in Latin the Prayers of the People were read in Portuguese, Spanish, German, Slovak and Russian. At Communion time, Pope Paul distributed hosts to 10 Korean boys and girls dressed in national costumes while hymns were sung in Polish by Polish seminarians studying in Rome.



Cardinal-designate Terence Cooke kneels to greet child; Sunday, on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral.