

Black Catholic Center Wins Unanimous OK

Houston — (RNS) — American bishops have given unanimous approval for the establishment of a National Center for Black Catholicism.

Their endorsement was given to a report submitted by Coadjutor Bishop Peter L. Gerety of Portland, Me. He is chairman of a three-bishop ad hoc committee named last November to meet with leaders of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and study their demands.

At a meeting with black clergy in Detroit in early March, he said, a refined proposal for a central office for Black Catholicism was presented.

He said this calls for a board of directors made up of three bishops appointed by the NCBC, and 14 other members consisting of priests, Brothers, religious women and laymen selected by black clergy, religious and lay people.

Bishop Gerety said the organization "would articulate for the Church and to the authorities in the Church the needs of the black communities in all areas concerning the life of the Church."

Rather than separatism, he said, the center would "aid the church in the development and utilization of personnel and would strive to develop black leadership within the Catholic segment of the black community."

Cardinal-designate John J. Wright of Pittsburgh reported to the Conference of Catholic Bishops here that "measurable progress has been made" in the Church's work on the national race crisis.

The chief contribution the Church has to make, he said, "includes the example of social justice and of unselfish charity. But the essential mission of the Church in this, as in all things else, consists in the prophetic appeal to the conscience of the king and of the citizenry; and the sparking of motivation for Christians to go the extra mile — the mile of charity that goes beyond the mile required by justice."

Referring to a survey of 54 dioceses,

The Bishops In Houston

Seminarians Dip 12 P.C. In 4 Years

Houston — (RNS) — The U.S. American bishops were told here that the number of major seminarians in their last four years of preparation for the priesthood has dropped 12 per cent since 1966.

The statistic was cited by Bishop Joseph T. Daley of Harrisburg, Pa., chairman of the Episcopal Committee for Religious Vocations, in his report to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He said there was a drop of almost 27 per cent in the number of seminarians at all levels of training from the academic year 1965-66 to the present, but added that there was a leveling off of the decrease in the present year.

In 1965-66, he said, there were 45,287 seminarians; the present enrollment on all levels of seminary training — including high school, college and theology school — is 35,085.

The adoption of a materialistic value system, an exaggerated permissiveness and a rejection of closely knit family life were some of the reasons for the decline, according to diocesan vocations directors throughout the country, Bishop Daley said.

Perhaps the most severe problem of all, according to local vocations directors, "is the uncertainty of a large number of sincere Catholics with priestly and religious life and with the Church itself."

"One factor contributing to this uncertainty," Bishop Daley added, "is the departure of priests and religious from the Church, at least from the previous form of their dedicated service of the Church, and the dramatization of this in the press."

Bishops to Study Priests Attitudes

Houston — (RNS) — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has let contracts to professional public opinion-taking firms to determine a true picture of the "life and ministry" of priests in this country, it was revealed here.

The study, to take a minimum of 18 months, should disclose, among other things, the attitude of American priests toward the question of mandatory celibacy.

John Cardinal Krol reported to the bishops that a study on the historical significance of the priesthood has already been completed by Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, noted church historian of the University of San Francisco. A similar study on the scriptural validity of the priesthood also has been completed by Father Eugene Maly, scripture scholar of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Norwood, Ohio.

He also said that a committee of priest-scholars is preparing a questionnaire, due for completion June 15, which will be mailed to priests nationwide on a "representative basis," but not to all priests.

Wider Use of Deacons Planned

Houston — (RNS) — More widespread training, ordination and assignment of permanent deacons in the U.S. Catholic Church was promised here at the semi-annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Ernest L. Unterkoefler of Charleston, chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate, said that 40 American diocesan bishops had expressed interest in using ordained deacons.

He reported that 70 men had written to him expressing an interest in serving the church as deacons. Many of them, he said, were married men.

Vatican II rules state that while married men may be ordained deacons, single men who become deacons cannot thereafter marry. This concurs with the procedure followed in Eastern-Orthodox Churches.

Deacons, according to Vatican II,

The Bishops In Houston

may distribute Communion, conduct baptism and marriage ceremonies, but may not celebrate Mass or hear confessions.

Bishop Unterkoefler said experimental training programs for deacons have been set up at St. John's College, Collegeville, Minn.; the Orchard Lake (Mich.) Schools; Aquinas Institute of Theology, Dubuque; the seminaries of the Archdiocese of Detroit; and the Baltimore-Washington Seminary of the Josephite Fathers, which is specializing in training deacons for inner city ghetto areas.

Bishops' Dilemma

What's Future of Schools?

Houston — (RNS) — The head of the nation's largest parochial school system said the uppermost question today regarding Catholic education is whether the bishops intend to continue elementary and secondary schools.

Auxiliary Bishop William E. McManus, superintendent of Chicago archdiocesan schools, said the bishops will be subject to criticism no matter what their decision since opinions are widely divergent among priests, religious and laity.

If Catholic schools are to remain open, however, he said, they will need help through federal and state tax funds.

He said that about 450 schools have closed in the last three years, and about 200 more are slated for

closing this June. About two-thirds of those closing were small, rural schools with fewer than eight classrooms, and most high schools closing had enrollments under 200.

According to Bishop McManus, decisions to close schools have resulted in "destructive tensions, enmity between diocesan and local boards; sharp and prolonged dispute within the parish circle; recriminations against religious orders because of their withdrawal of teaching personnel."

"Serious as are the schools' financial problems, they are not the main crisis," Bishop McManus said. "It is, rather, a crisis of confidence in the Catholic school's future."

This confidence crisis, he said, may lead to the wholesale abandonment of Catholic schools by students.

Abortion

(Continued from page 1) rape or incest, or was 15 years of age.

The mother was able or incompetent.

There was substantial risk to the fetus or to the mother or so malformed as to be permanently incapable of surviving.

The bill fell seven votes short of the 76 needed in the 100-member House. Speaker Carl Albert, D-Mont., proposed as a substitute the bill introduced by Sen. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., which would require a 75-vote majority in the Senate.

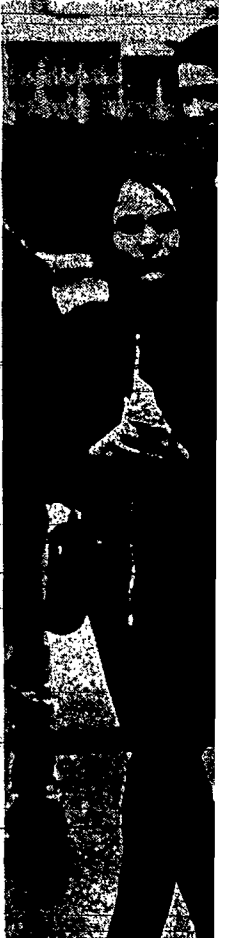
The dramatic five-vote margin of the legislative session.

Blumenthal had he had 82 votes for. Some of these, it is assumed on his part, have changed their vote.

Some of the drama may have resulted from the personal and emotional appeal of Nassau Assemblyman Berg (R) (who carried two crutches). He formally by polio because it would cause the risk of a detectable birth defect.

Ginsberg, 38, the teenage girls, said: port this bill, but

"I don't know what I live in this town. Perhaps it's here on April 17 specific bill."



Coeds from

Ithaca To F

(Continued

grew the drives higher and high

To add interest 120 rural children: 18 years were born from Perkinsville. Nearly 100 students day with campus entertainment.

The farm you radio studio and appeal, saw the facilities and the swim, played volleyball on the trampoline.

Canada Attacked

By DOUGL


Ottawa — (RNS) bishops would meet by once abortion bill now. They requested a text Catholic from lawsuits of form abortions.

The bishops' with these other.

The bishops standing "square" Catholicism of Catholics of Canada may follow the once on birth control, Hummel taken into account.

The statement reiterates our position on a Catholic Christian form his consideration of the "tertiary." The great burden of individual conscience.

Eight elected who met with dialogue sessions of optional-intended implications that they intend Pope to change



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Model SM 290E—Normal Installation Included

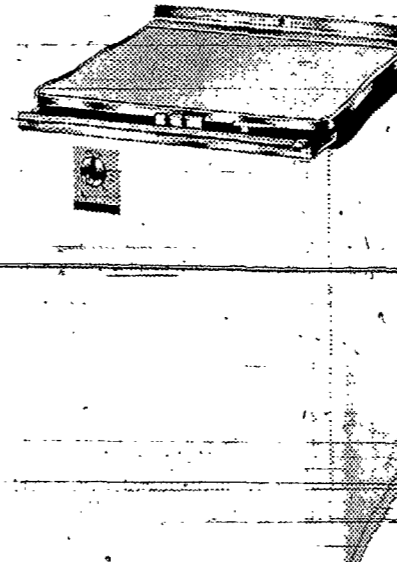
This is a top-loading model that has two dishwashing cycles with easy push-button selection. There's a Daily Loads Cycle for everyday family dishes and a handy Pots and Pans Cycle for heavily soiled items. And the General Electric Power Flow mechanism gives you very quiet dependable operation.

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There's no need for hand rinsing or scraping thanks to a soft food disposer that liquefies soft foods and washes them away. Just tip off large or hard food scraps.

Other features include; Rinse-Glo Automatic Rinse Agent Dispenser, Double Automatic Detergent Dispenser, a Water Limiter Control that stops water flow at the correct level and a swing down door for easy loading.

Sure to give "Good Ol' Mom" more time out of the kitchen and with built-in eye appeal she'll appreciate.

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Model SC 300E—Normal Installation Included

Here's a front-loading portable dishwasher that is convertible to a built-in model at a later date if you wish.

Its revolutionary Power-Flo mechanism is very quiet — possibly the quietest dishwasher you ever heard and it gives you the cleanest dishes ever.

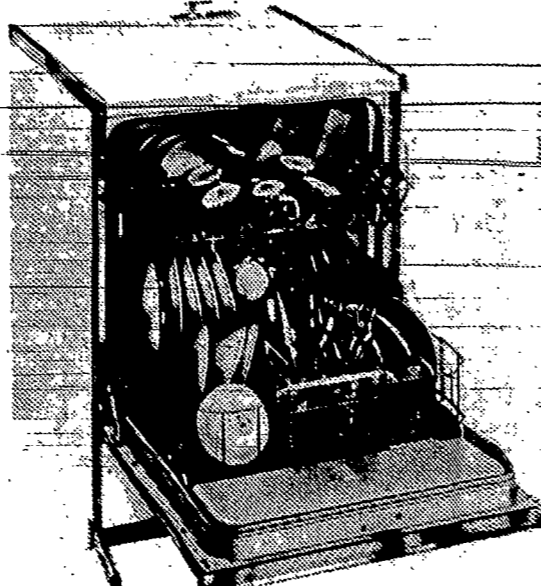
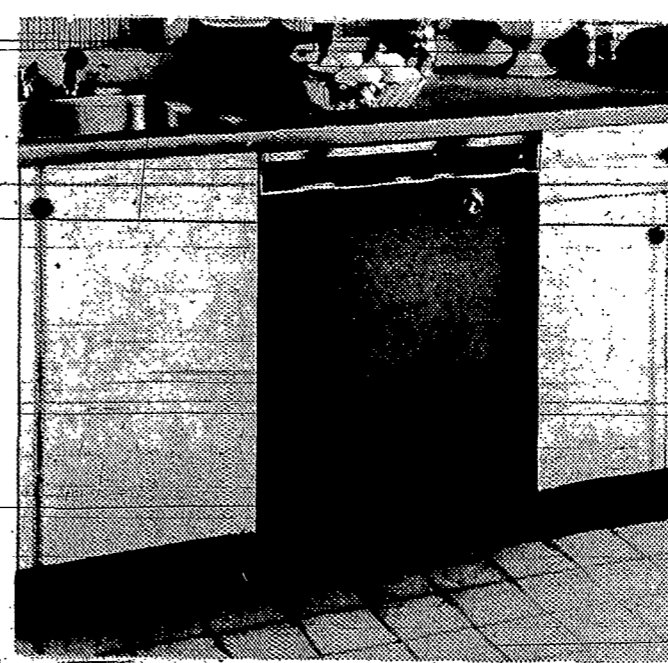
An Automatic Detergent Dispenser does away with guessing as to what amount of detergent to use. It's all added automatically.

A swing-down door, full extension racks, and a handles-up silverware basket makes easy loading.

You can move it about easily with the full-width handle and smooth rolling coasters.

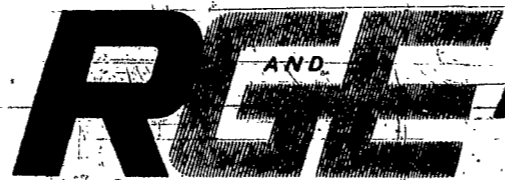
Other features include; a Soft-Food Disposer that does away with hand rinsing and scraping, and a Cushion Guard Tub that helps protect delicate items and muffles sound.

This portable dishwasher will make a perfect gift for "Good Ol' Mom" on Mother's Day.

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