

Vatican Not Liquidating Holdings

BY PATRICK RILEY
NC News Service

Vatican City—The Holy See has moved to calm public fears that it is liquidating its stock investments in Italy.

A spokesman admitted that the Holy See was adjusting its investment portfolio but said the changes "have neither the extent nor the hidden purposes attributed to them."

Italian newspapers had speculated that the Holy See was preparing to sell its entire interest in the big real estate firm

Societa Generale Immobiliare and that this was the first step in the liquidation of all Vatican investments in Italian corporations.

The newspapers further speculated that the Vatican was spurred to take its funds out of Italy by its dispute with the Italian government over a tax on dividends, or by fears of a Communist takeover in Italy.

Of the Holy See's recent stock transactions, Msgr. Fausto Vallainc, press officer, said: "In their limited scope they are part of the ordinary management of any estate. They are

operations that are carried out today just as they were carried out in the past and therefore there is no reason for alarm."

During earlier controversy over payment of income tax by the Vatican, former Finance Minister Luigi Preti estimated that the Vatican's stock holdings in Italy were in the order of \$160 million. That would come to about 1 per cent of the market value of all corporation shares in Italy.

Despite the relative slenderness of the Vatican holdings, it is feared that sudden withdrawal of all of the Vatican's Italian in-

vestments could cause further deterioration in Italy's chronically unstable and currently weak investment market.

The Holy See has also stated it will pay income tax on its Italian investments if the government insists, but it has asked time to pay such a retroactive tax in installments. The government has not publicly responded to this offer, which the Holy See made publicly in October. At that time it was estimated that the taxes due since 1963 when the tax law came into effect would amount to about \$7 million.

End Church Schools, U.S. Laymen Urge

Cleveland — (RNS) — The National Association of Laymen this week urged the gradual phasing out of all Church-run elementary and secondary schools, the paying of \$400 million in reparation twice what the Black Economic Development Conference asked of the Roman Catholic Church — and the withdrawal from Vietnam of U.S. troops "as fast as possible."

Support for those who have publicly resisted the draft system and the granting of selective conscientious objector status to those who are, for reasons of conscience, opposed to a particular war.

Establishment of a section to work for equality of women in the Church, including roles in the permanent diaconate and the priesthood.

Continuation of its campaign for financial disclosure in all dioceses of the U.S.

Election of pastoral councils composed of clergy and laity in all dioceses to make decisions about the Christian use of the human and material resources of the Church.

The NAL represents more than 19,000 members according to Dennis Landis, outgoing NAL president.

In its resolution on religious education, the NAL urged the closing of Church-run schools and transformation of them into parish community centers.

The centers would seek more adult commitment and could be used, the resolutions said, for informal religious education programs for adults and young adults. "Developmental religious experiences serving children in the context of the adult community could be integrated into the center's program as experts judge the need."

Gradual phasing out of the schools, the resolution said, should not include "any school programs designed to serve the exceptional child, the culturally deprived, the retarded, the disturbed or school programs attempting to meet needs presently not addressed by the local school system."

The Bible service and discussion meetings will alternate on Tuesday evenings; on Wednesdays there will be Mass for those over 30; and a young people's liturgy is scheduled Thursdays. Leaflets have been distributed throughout the neighborhood inviting attendance.

Their apartment includes a living room, dinette to be used as a den for discussions and Mass, two bedrooms, kitchen, pantry, washroom and storage space. Basic furnishings were provided by the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

A backyard is large enough for barbecues and outside meals to meet neighbors. They also have one section of a five-car garage for other use.

The experiment is planned for one year, after which it will be evaluated, but Father Yaroch added, "the feeling is that this type of program will gain more adherence as we go along."

NEW KOREA DIOCESE

Vatican City — (NC)—Pope Paul VI has created the Diocese of Andong in Korea with territory taken from the Archdiocese of Taegu and the Diocese of Wouju.

N'Yorker Gave \$100,000

New York — (RNS) — That check for \$100,000 which Pope Paul received in Geneva and turned over to the World Council of Churches came from a New York Catholic layman.

The donor wished to present the check to the WCC through the Pope in recognition of the recent decision of the Medical Mission Sisters of Philadelphia to join the World Council in a program combating leprosy.

A statement released by the New York Archdiocese here explained that the anonymous donor hopes his gift "will stimulate men of good-will of other faiths" to assist in the relief of lepers.



Throwaway clothes should be a boon to this crowd, if that black eye, (boy second from left), is an indication of their life style. Assembled for confirmation at St. Anne's, Brentwood, L.I., the boys are garbed in scarlet disposable robes made of a non-woven rayon material.

2 Worker Priests Active in Milwaukee

By Gene Horn
(NC News Service)

Milwaukee — Two young Capuchin priests are testing the priest-worker movement here—living in an inner city apartment and working part time.

Exploring a plan that has been successful in France and Holland, Fathers Robert Bertram, O.F.M. Cap., and Paul Yaroch, O.F.M. Cap., are employed to be self-supporting and away from their religious community to share, contact and involve themselves with the people they serve.

Father Bertram is a department store sales clerk, making \$40 to \$50 a week. Father Yaroch, a cab driver, averages

about \$70. They live in a five-room, \$90-a-month apartment. Their employers know they are priests.

They share all expenses: food, clothing and utilities, and hope to put any "left over" funds to good use.

Having no car, they chose to live close to the central city and near a bus line. Their neighborhood has a mixture of white, black and Spanish-speaking people.

They began their experiment the first week in May through Father Bertram's initiative and interest. His inspiration came from the priest-worker movement in France, which he said he feels could meet the needs of people in this country.

"I was interested," he explained, "because I felt the walls around the friary hindered contact with people. Here we can reach out to a lot of people who wouldn't come there—those on the job and in the neighborhood."

Another reason, said Father Bertram, "is a look to the future when there will be a married priesthood. Bishops are turning up on the idea that they can't support married priests but this is one way it can be done."

"So many of our (Capuchin) parishes are in the inner-city and not self-supporting. Since donations are going down I see the day when we will have to

have a lot more of this, especially in the more professional ranks as teachers and counselors, so we can do work more closely related to parish duties."

At the department store, Father Bertram is a "flyer," one who does selling in different departments as needed. He said he took the job because he wanted to come into contact with many people to test religious witness and to bring joy and happiness to them.

In his spiritual role he gives converts instructions to persons in their homes, offers Mass at neighboring parishes and teaches at Francis Community School which he is helping reorganize.

Father Yaroch decided on driving a cab because the company he works for serves the central city. He said his job gives him leads to help people in need.

He already has aided several persons in finding homes and assisted a hard core poverty family in need of clothing and home furnishings.

In his priestly duties he offers home Masses and also helps priests in various neighboring parishes.

U.S. Viet Advisors Criticized by Jesuit

Boston — (NC) — American technical advisors are helping to construct more prison and detention facilities in Vietnam and making no effort to decrease the number of political prisoners, according to the dean of Jesuit-operated Boston College law school.

Father Robert J. Drinan, S.J., stated that "nearly one third or more of the persons imprisoned by the South Vietnamese government are never charged or brought to trial."

The law school dean recently visited Vietnam as a member of a committee of American clergymen. "It is impossible," said Father Drinan, "to understand how they—embassy officials—can condone this type of action."

He added: "Granted, it is

war, but there is a majority, non-communist, middle group now in, prison."

Vietnamese and U.S. embassy officials have said that 35,000 persons are now in the country's prisons and an unspecified number of detainees are being held either for investigation or sentencing by provincial security committees, Father Drinan declared.

Czech Prelates Exonerated

Vatican City — (RNS)—Nine leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia, sentenced to long prison terms in 1950, have been fully exonerated by a special government commission.

Don't Feed 'Tripe' To New Nations, Canterbury Warns

London — (NC) — The Anglican Primate warned here of the dangers of the newly developing nations being fed with "tripe" or propaganda literature.

Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury was speaking at the Mansion House, official home of the Lord Mayor of London, at a lunch to focus attention on the campaign to provide the new nations with Christian literature.

"Many millions cannot read. Many are becoming able to read. And the crisis arises—what are they going to read?" he asked. "There is an enormous literary vacuum and there are those ready to exploit the situation by selling tripe."

Others are equally ready to sell propaganda to make the situation really dangerous for the unity and peace of the community, he said.

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