

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Vol. 80 No. 40

14 Pages

Rochester, New York

Price: 15¢

Friday, July 4, 1969



## An Old Man, a Flag And the 4th of July

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

Fourth of July — everyone looks for a bright, clear day. Remembered, the holiday always was bright and clear, with enough wind to flutter the flags out front and float the charcoal smoke from the back yard.

It is an at-home day, and the little kids wheel up and down the sidewalks, popping into this yard and that to cage toasted marshmallows and ask their knotty questions.

"Your flag hasn't got 50 stars... how come?"

Our flag lies flat against the house, long and narrow. The third graders can count the stars, six by eight. A World War II flag, it came home with the boy next door.

There was a poem in the New Yorker June 7, commemorating the burial of Robert F. Kennedy a year earlier. The flag was taken from his coffin, and folded twice lengthwise, then in triangles, until it looked like a three-cornered hat, or a pouch.

"Take this," the poet said to JFK's friends and relatives; take this instead of a friend, or a brother, or a husband.

Our flag is folded the same way. It's the same kind of flag, except that the sacrifice was not really ours.

Years ago, in another place, the old man next door came over with this flag folded into a three-cornered hat, or a pouch, and he said, "I'd like you to keep this, if you can use it."

He was 80, at least, the last of his family. He had cleared his house for

sale, and would go live in a hotel. One thing that was hard to let go was the flag that had graced the coffin of his youngest son, the child of his old age, a boy who had been raised for the priesthood.

"I haven't got it," that boy had said to me the summer before the war. "They still hope I'll be a priest, and all I'll ever be is a soldier." He had an AB degree and an ROTC commission. He owed the Army a summer in training camp.

He came back from camp in his own car, a captain with overseas orders. The ashtray he left on the piano in his mother's parlor stayed there for years, unemptied. His mother was like that: she cherished souvenirs. She kept all her Christmas cards in their envelopes, and her birthday cards and letters. She dusted around the ashtray and the stacks of cards, cut the dead blooms from the peonies and Canterbury bells and marigolds, and waited.

She was in a state of suspended animation until the Battle of the Bulge was over, and after that she said, "I'm on borrowed time."

The father had even more borrowed time, so that things, as such, fell away from him. At last he had nothing he valued, save the long, narrow flag that he entrusted to his son's friends, to fly on holidays, in another place, years after his own death.

To put the thing simply, in answer to the bright-eyed little wiseguy who wonders how come — our flag has 48 stars because that's the way they made the flags in the Old Days.



## Pope Paul Praises U.S. Bishops for Human Life Work

(NC-News Service)

Vatican City — Pope Paul VI this week thanked the U.S. bishops for organizing the \$750,000 Human Life Foundation to sponsor research and educational programs on various aspects of human reproduction.

In a letter to John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit, president of the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the secretary of state, Jean Cardinal Villot, called the undertaking "a ready and generous response" to Pope Paul's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which reaffirmed the Church's traditional stand against artificial contraception.

The independent, non-profit Human Life Foundation was launched by the NCCB at its November, 1968, meeting, and the bishops pledged \$1 million for that purpose. At the meeting in Houston, Tex., it was announced that \$750,000 had already been realized as seed money for the foundation's projects.

In their November, 1968, collective pastoral, "Human Life in Our Day," the bishops expressed their intention to establish such a foundation in order to help "doctors, educators and

ultimately, spouses in licit family planning."

The Vatican City daily, in front-paging the letter to Cardinal Dearden, suggested that the American foundation not only conduct research into the medical and sociological aspects of birth regulation but also enlist the cooperation of economists and technicians, especially agricultural experts.

"A systematic propaganda — every day — puts before our eyes the imminence of a universal catastrophe stemming from a demographic increase vastly disproportionate to the present and potential resources of the earth.

"Economic considerations inspired by special interests or local situations seem to prompt a substantial limitation of agricultural production. That is happening at the very moment hundreds of millions of human creatures are suffering hunger."

## Former Soldier Now Directing Strategy in War on Poverty

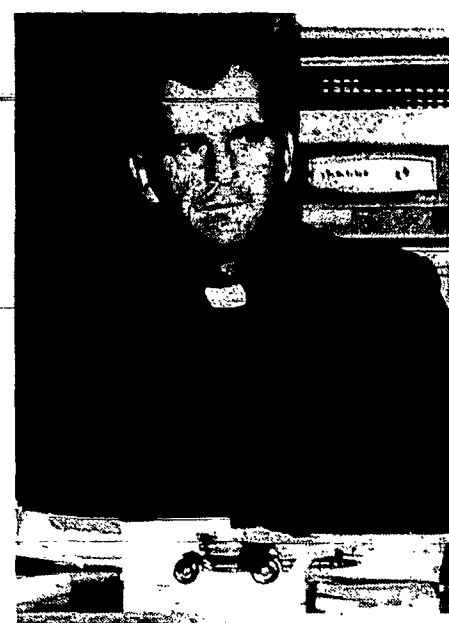
A military mind and a missionary heart seem superbly mated in the new "Diocesan Director for Human Concerns," Father John J. Hempel, who this week moved into Rochester to begin combining the attack of the Urban Ministry and the Secular Mission on problems of the poor in the diocese.

For the past two years director of apostolates for the poor in some five rural counties of the center-diocese, Father Hempel in addition now takes over the inner-city ministry formerly directed by Father David Finks.

"We have been thinking for some time of the need for rural and city forces working together to fight poverty," Father Hempel said.

"The situation in the rural areas is huge and we must continue to broaden and deepen our attack there. But my main time and thinking may be in the cities of the diocese where the urban problems are so heavy and immediate."

Intending to continue Father Finks' work, widely hailed for its ecumenical touch, the new director said: "He established a broad and solid base. For a start I've got a lot of listening and watching to do to learn what projects are going on in



FATHER HEMPEL

our several cities and to meet the people who I know can do things."

As executive officer of a medical battalion in the 26th Division in World War II before he entered St. Bernard's Seminary, and still connected with the military as chaplain of the N.Y. State National Guard, Father Hempel often speaks of his future tasks in military language:

"We need steady flanking attacks on social problems, rather than a crushing frontal attack. The problems involved in 'human needs' are housing, employment, education and health. Unless you think and act in terms of the individual personal needs you are never going to resolve the total problem of poverty."

Reviewing the rural situation where the Secular Mission priests have worked under his direction, Father Hempel reported:

Yates and Seneca Counties: Father Robert D. Buckland, succeeding him in Penn Yan, will find several smooth-running ecumenical Houses of Concern. "These cooperative projects will move into broader fields as we find needs beyond food and clothing for the poor."

Wayne County: Housing is the main target of welfare here. Finding employment in industrial areas for off-season-farm-workers is also vital.

Gates and Schuyler Counties: Father Timothy Weider of Perkinsville has "a fabulous operation" for migrants and rural poor families. Many colleagues and high schoolers are helping there this summer.

Tioga and Tompkins Counties: The Galilee House operation is dead and the property rented out. But a community is being formed in the Candor area by Father George Gauthier.

Father Hempel recognizes that successful efforts in the rural areas may not be duplicated in the innercity setting.

"But education and organization must go hand in hand," he believes. It will take task forces, made up of government people, industrialists, civic leaders, religious people and welfare agents all working together to bring about a social change, he says.

A dream which takes new form every time Father Hempel sees some undeveloped area is "the new city concept." "We need to build some new cities outside of present ones, entire new complexes, complete with industries, recreational and educational facilities and modern low-cost housing where the poor, both rural or city, could make a new start with a job and decent living and a hometown of their own to be proud of."

The former Sampson Base along Seneca Lake used by the Navy and then the Air Force for recruit training in the past 25 years offers an ideal site for a "start-from-scratch city," he claims.

A conviction that "the education of suburbanites to the desperation of innercity and rural poor" is a key to broad parish support of the diocesan office of human concern, makes Father Hempel say fervently: "More people need to be emotionally involved with the human needs in these areas."

"To say 'it's horrible and tragic' for people to have to live like this is not enough. Collegians could come to help us: many of them claim a guilt complex about the failures of their adult society. Nuns could be used for organizing adults, taking community leadership roles, becoming trouble-shooters by visiting homes. Earnest lay men and women could find some phase of this broad apostolate for their volunteer time."

Father Hempel will reside at Becket Hall.

## Bishop Shannon Takes College Post

Santa Fe, N.M. — (NC) — Bishop James P. Shannon, who has submitted his resignation as auxiliary bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, has been appointed vice president of St. John's College, a nondenominational institution here.

## Gallup Poll Dual Setup Of Schools Favored

By WILLIAM RYAN

Washington — (NC) — The chief spokesman for the nation's Catholic schools called here for federal aid to both public and private school children reaching a level of \$100 a pupil-per-year-over-the-next-four-years.

"Anything less threatens the stability and growth of the education effort," Msgr. James C. Donohue, director of the Division of Education, United States Catholic Conference (USCC) said.

In a statement before the subcommittee on education of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Msgr. Donohue said "unless the federal government and the state government come forward with more aid than is presently available," then the private sector of education — including the parochial schools which enroll more than 85% of all students in private schools — "cannot survive."

The priest told the subcommittee that the enrollment of Catholic elementary and secondary schools decreased by more than half a million students in the past two years and that more than 250 Catholic schools will not open their doors this September. He said this was due to the rising costs of education and the shortage of adequate teaching personnel.

"The crisis facing private education is a crisis for public education as well," Msgr. Donohue warned. "It is becoming increasingly clear that the failure of the Federal and state legislatures to provide help to the financially hard pressed parents of nonpublic school children will spell not only the end of the private school system as we now know it, but financial chaos in the public schools as well."

New York — (NC) — A far-reaching opinion survey on public and private schools has shown that a large majority of Americans approve of the nation's dual system of education.

The poll — conducted by Gallup International — indicated that more than 80% of those living in areas served by public, private and parochial schools would re-establish all three types of schools if they were to build new communities. The survey came at a time when public schools are growing and Catholic schools are closing down because of financial strain.

Thirty-two percent of those questioned rated the quality of public education above that of parochial and private education; 24% rated private schools highest; 21% rated parochial schools highest and 20% rated all three equal in quality.

If tuition were free, 30% of those queried would send their children to private schools; 29% would send them to parochial schools and 41% would send them to public schools.

The four reasons cited for favoring nonpublic schools were — in descending order — superior education, social prestige, discipline and an escape from racial difficulties.

Some 13% of the nation's 50 million elementary and secondary school pupils are enrolled in nonpublic schools, but less than 1% are in private schools not related to churches.

## Schools' Head Seeks \$100-a-Pupil Aid

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"As a specific example," he said, "the closing of any 350-pupil private school would increase state and local taxes by a quarter of a million dollars a year."

Msgr. Donohue expressed support for a bill authorizing extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965.

While the benefits of this act are "educationally and culturally significant" in terms of disadvantaged children, school library resources, and innovative supplementary centers and services, Msgr. Donohue said, "I am sorry to report that the effective participation of children in Catholic schools leaves much to be desired in many areas of the country."

## School Board Plan Backed by Cardinal

New York — (RNS) — Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York has endorsed a proposal to establish a board of education for the archdiocesan school system.

Responding to a report on the parochial schools issued in early June by a "blue ribbon" committee, the cardinal said that many of its suggestions "have become the basis of several steps we are taking now and others which will follow in the next few months."

The committee also suggested establishment of a "Catholic Teacher Corps" composed of volunteers working for a subsistence stipend rather than a secular salary and some "transference mechanism" so that the funds of wealthier parishes could be used to help poorer ones maintain their schools.



An Up-Close Look

When you see the weekly television Mass sponsored by Aquinas Institute at 8:30 Sunday mornings on WHEC-TV, Channel 10, it has all the scope and feeling of being in church. This photo shows the actual setting at the television studio. Father John Whitley, Basilian of the Aquinas Faculty is the celebrant here.

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## Sisters Reject Secular Garb

Caldwell, N. J. — (NC) — Without debate, the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell at their general chapter here turned down a proposal that nuns be permitted to wear secular dress on some occasions.

Reporting to the chapter, Mother Dolorita Ansbro, whose term is expiring, said that the community has experienced a remarkable degree of stability in the post-council period.

Only 34 professed Sisters have been dispensed from their vows in the last six years, she said. The congregation numbers about 400 professed nuns.