

# Cardinal Explains Questions: Just Laying Ground for Synod

Paris — (RNS) — Leo-Joseph Cardinal Suenens, the Primate of Belgium, said here that the controversial problems he cited in an interview with a French magazine last month sought to pose "essential questions" which must be considered at the forthcoming Synod of Bishops.

The prelate, just returned from a visit to the United States, told Le Figaro, the conservative Paris daily, that the questions he raised were those which are troubling many Catholics.

The original interview in the magazine Informations Catholiques Internationales has since been translated into at least eight languages and has sparked controversy.

Asked in what respect he feels he was misunderstood, Cardinal Suenens said, "The beginning (of the interview) which was essential, was too neglected. I proposed a perspective on the Church as an evangelical reality and everything stems from that. It is why I began by saying, 'The fundamental problem which divides us, consciously or not, is a problem of theology, a different initial vision of the Church.'"



CARDINAL SUENENS

"Proudhon said in his time that at the root of every political problem one discerned a problem of theology," the cardinal noted. "All the more so within the heart of religious policy."

"The Church," he said, "is not uniformly, but unity within diversity. Collegiality is not only consultation, but co-responsibility."

The interview then noted, "It is said that you gave weapons to the agitators."

The Belgian cardinal answered, "I think I have taken weapons away from them, for it is the solution of genuine problems that disarms the critics. It is by extracting all truth contained in all agitation that one can surmount it."

In the May 15 issue of the French magazine Informations Catholiques Internationales, Cardinal Suenens, 64, described the prevalent tendency in the Church's central government as formalistic and juridical. He also proposed reconsideration of the manner in which bishops and the pope are elected.

In the article, the Belgian cardinal criticized the election of popes by the college of cardinals, and criticized the college of cardinals itself. He said all who are affected by a decision of the Church should be involved in what he called the "decision-taking."

## IHM Directed To Resume Old Ways

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — The Immaculate Heart (IHM) Sisters, a religious order long embroiled in controversy over experiments with new forms of religious life, have been told to end the experiments, Ave Maria magazine revealed here.

An order from Rome, delivered to IHM headquarters in Los Angeles on May 29, calls on the Sisters to return to teaching and cooperate with their bishops. They are directed to emphasize the primacy of spiritual over apostolic works and establish a fixed schedule of community spiritual activities.

The bishops with whom they must cooperate include most notably James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, with whom the IHM Sisters have been engaged in a long controversy concerning their experimental reforms.

Ave Maria said that the chief significance of the directive is its occurrence just prior to the IHM chapter and the implication that the community must decide on a fixed rule at this chapter, in August.

The experiments, objected to by Cardinal McIntyre and now turned down by the Vatican, are similar to those being tried by many communities in the U.S. One of the IHM Sisters told Ave Maria that there is "a great concern" in the community "that we should be singled out; many orders are doing exactly what we are."

The directive originated with the Sacred Congregation for Religious at the Vatican.

Similar directives were sent about a year and a half ago to all religious communities through Mother Mary Omer, chairman of the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious Women. The IHM Sisters, however, seems to be the first community specifically told to incorporate these points into their rules and to do so almost immediately.

A year ago, the community was temporarily split into two groups. Some 90 per cent of the members, about 440 Sisters, remained with the superior, Sister Anita Caspary, and chose to continue the experiment. About 90 others, who are headed by Sister Eileen MacDonald, chose to continue the traditional way of life.

During the 1968 controversy, Pope Paul was sent petitions signed by 25,000 Catholics, including more than 16,000 laymen, asking that he "protect and encourage" the IHM Sisters in their reforms.

### \$70 a Month and All They Can Eat

Paris — (RNS) — Beginning Oct. 1, all members of the Catholic clergy in the Paris region, no matter what their rank, will receive the equivalent of \$70 dollars monthly, plus food and lodging, it was officially announced here.

Lodging and food expenses are to be shouldered by the community in which the priest lives. A priest living alone will receive an additional monthly indemnity of \$65 for food and \$30 for lodging.

Money given in the form of offerings for Masses, envelopes for ceremonies and cash donations will be put into a treasury, either a parish or diocesan treasury, and it will then be divided up so that poorer parishes receive an equitable share.

The budget will be administered by a committee comprising the parish priest, other priests and — a truly revolutionary feature — laymen.

## Priest Rebuts Charges Against Black Panthers

San Francisco — (NC) — A Catholic priest issued a statement here defending himself and the militant Black Panther organization against charges made by a San Francisco police inspector at the Senate subcommittee hearing in Washington.

The police inspector, Ben Laskoff, told the Senate investigating subcommittee that a "Black Panther Coloring Book," showing black youngsters slaying police depicted as pigs, was distributed by the Panthers along with free breakfasts in three churches, including Sacred Heart church in San Francisco.

In a lengthy rebuttal given to the press here, the Sacred Heart pastor, Father Eugene J. Boyle said:

• That the Black Panthers themselves had repudiated the book which apparently was printed up by an expelled member of the party.

• That he, Father Boyle, had made a "strong and unequivocal" objection to the book and asked that it not be given out.

• That far more copies of the book have been reproduced and distributed by the police than by any Black Panther.

• That to pretend the Black Panthers are at the root of community tensions is "escapism of the rank-and-file sort."

• That the Black Panthers had been busy feeding hungry children through their breakfast program while other committees merely investigated malnutrition.

## Southern Baptists Reaffirm Conservative Tendencies

By FR. EDWARD DUFF, S.J. (NC News Service)

New Orleans — The conservative Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, closed its annual meeting here with an even more pronounced stand in theology and on social issues.

Today the southern fellowship has 11.3 million members in 34,295 congregations, found in all 5 states, but concentrated largely in the old Confederacy.

While each Baptist church is autonomous, they cooperate for common tasks through 19 different agencies and institutions which report to the annual convention.

Ecumenism remains a word of dubious legitimacy, if not downright treason, in the Southern Baptist vocabulary. No representative of another faith appeared on the convention platform.

There was no reference to last month's three-day conference of Catholic and Southern Baptist scholars sponsored by the ecumenical institute at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. There was, in fact, no allusion to the existence of the institute.

Religious freedom is at the core of

Baptist belief. Separation of church and state is its central concern in the temporal order. It is not surprising, then, to come upon a resolution noting "consistent efforts by many groups, including some religious bodies, to violate religious freedom by seeking the use of public monies for religious institutions" and opposing the appointment of a United States ambassador to the Holy See.

Reference to the Catholic Church's stand "on the union of church and state" indicated an unawareness of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Religious Freedom and, indeed, of the whole history of American Catholicism.

Irritation at the alleged theological liberalism of some seminary professors produced a motion which would have required all authors of Southern Baptist literature to "sign a statement with each manuscript, affirming their personal belief in the authority, the doctrinal integrity and the infallibility of the entire Bible, the word of God."

There was much expectation that the black militant, James Forman, would invade the convention to present his demands for \$500 million in reparation from the churches. He never came, an absence that invited several interpretations.

## Hierarchy Backs Joint Services

Auckland, N.Z. — (RNS) — The Catholic hierarchy of New Zealand have encouraged Catholics "to take the initiative" in organizing joint prayer services with other churches.

In a document applying the principles of the 1967 Vatican Directory on Ecumenism to the New Zealand situation the bishops made it clear that ecumenism is not an "optional extra" for Catholics, but "an authentic expression of the organic life of the Church."

However, the Catholic prelates added that these ecumenical services must always be non-eucharistic in nature and ruled out any inter-communion.

With the permission of the local bishop, Catholics may invite other Christian parishes who have no place, for worship of their own to use the Catholic church for their services.

## Chicago To Close Only Two Schools

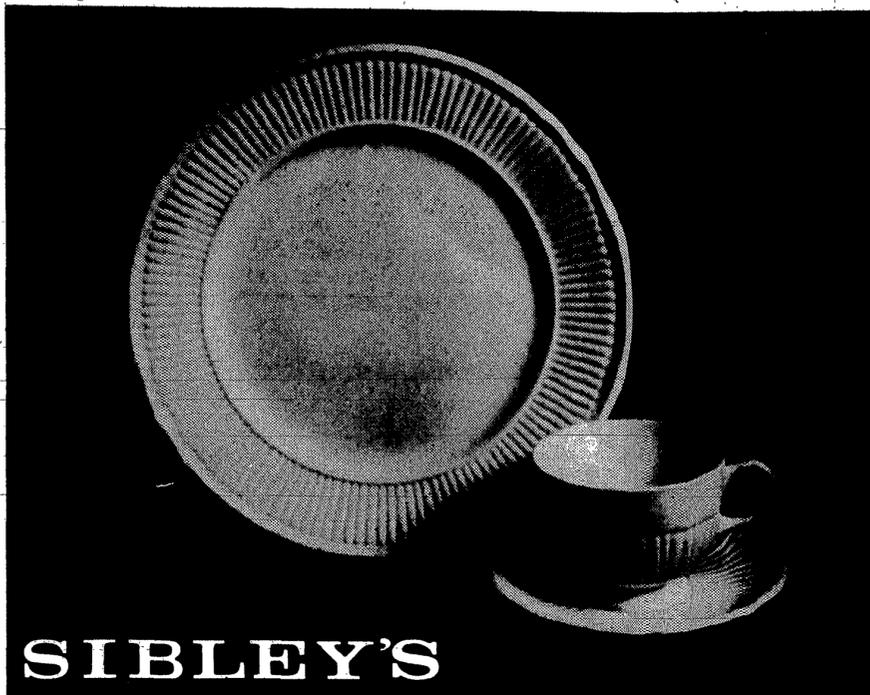
Chicago — (RNC) — Only two Catholic schools in the archdiocese will close this year despite reports that as many as five might cease operations.

Father Robert Clark, diocesan superintendent of schools, said that children affected by the closings will be accommodated at neighboring Catholic schools.

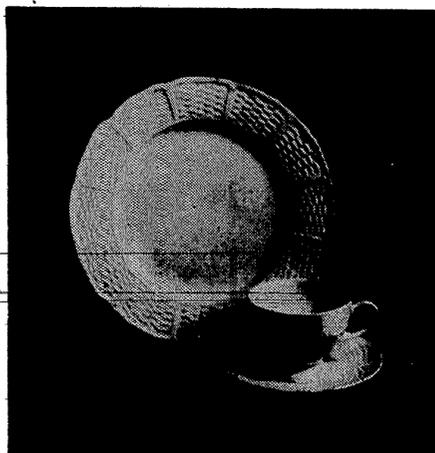
Special task forces in each parish which have been seeking new forms of financing their schools were credited with keeping the other schools and classes open.

## Church Building Impeded

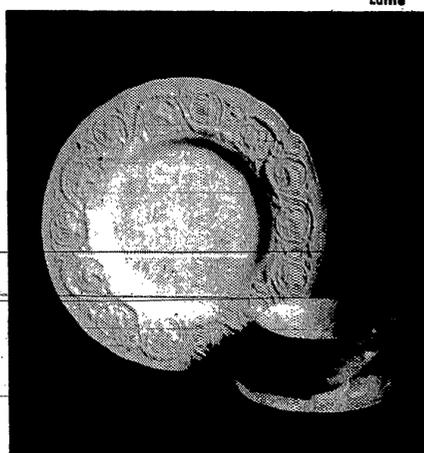
Bonn, Germany — (NC) — The Polish government is discriminating against Catholics by impeding church building. Stephan Cardinal Wyszynski of Warsaw has again charged, it was reported here.



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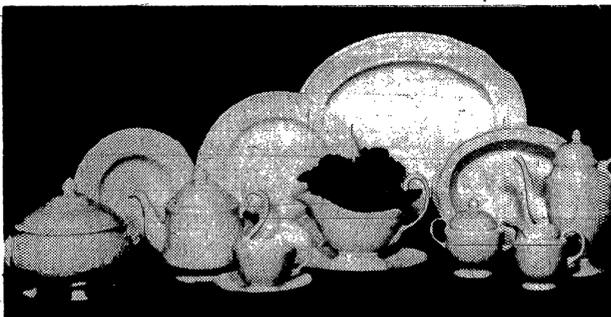
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