

Science Teacher Heads DC Sisters

Sister Mary Eugenia Cutler of the Religious of the Divine Compassion has been elected superior general of her order. She had been chairman of the chemistry department at Good Counsel College, White Plains.

The new mother general is the sister of William B. Cutler, executive vice president of Dollinger Corporation, Rochester. Another brother is Jesuit Father S. Oley Cutler, director of industrial relations at LeMoyne College, Syracuse.

Mother Mary Eugenia is a trustee of Good Counsel College, where she has taught for 23 years. She holds a doctorate in chemistry from Columbia University and has done research under grants from the National Science Foundation, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and New York University.

ADULT CLUB DINNER
The Rochester Catholic Adult Club will dine at Hedges Nine Mile Point at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, July 18. For reservations: 458-5236.

WEE PALS



by Morrie Turner

TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

DEAR FATHER,
Here is a question I've been wanting to ask you for a long time.

When Pope Paul gave us the encyclical, he wasn't speaking "ex cathedra," or from the throne of Peter. I would like to know why not. If the Pope is so sure he is right, then he should have spoken from the throne of Peter so there would be no doubt in anyone's mind whether birth control is right or not.

Since Pope Paul didn't speak "ex cathedra," he is

capable of error. So I don't see why it should be a sin to have birth control now, when another Pope in the future might reverse Pope Paul's decision.

Dear Jim,
Other people have written to me in a similar vein, so I will try to answer your letter the best I can, hoping it will answer everyone's questions. By necessity my answer has to be lengthy, and I hope all readers will bear with me.

Jim, I think you may be somewhat confused about the teaching authority of the Holy Father. Christ gave to Peter, in a special way, full authority on earth to teach in His Name: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven." (Mt. 16/19).

The Pope uses this teaching authority in different ways: First of all, when he speaks "ex cathedra" or "from the chair of Peter," that is, infallibly. This would be a complete, clear, and final teaching of the Church in a matter of faith — for every Catholic. To deny one of these teachings would be to deny one's faith.

Our Holy Father also uses this same teaching authority that Christ gave him, "He who hears Me," to command us in the Name of Christ, how

to act, what the Christian way to live life is. He does this whenever the question is a serious matter (in this case — human life), to clear up any doubts, and to wipe out harmful opinions. When the Holy Father does this, even though he does not use his power of infallibility, we must obey or we are guilty of serious sin. To disobey is to commit serious sin, but is not a denial of faith.

1) Why didn't the Pope speak "ex cathedra"?

The Pope did not speak "ex cathedra" because the answer to the question on "the raising up of new life" is not completely final. The Holy Father wanted to leave room in his command for further study, advances of medical science, and even a more clear teaching of the Church in the future.

2) He should have spoken "from the chair of Peter" so that there wouldn't be any doubt.

Pope Paul has considered all the findings of science and medicine. He has studied and listened carefully to all experts in this matter. He knows certainly the teaching of the Church and the teachings of the Popes who have spoken before him, yet he is the one, the only one, to whom Christ has given the authority to make a decision. He made it. There is no longer any doubt how we must act.

Science may in the future discover better methods. Medicine might with progress reach a different solu-

tion to the problem. Teachers of the Faith may perhaps come to a more clear teaching of the value of human life and new life. When, and if they do, the Holy Father, or those who follow him, will not contradict the present teaching of the Church, but will add to today's teaching how we are to use this new knowledge.

Whether the Pope speaks infallibly, or whether he speaks as Christ commanding, as he has done, there is no longer any doubt about "what to do."

3) Since he did not speak "ex cathedra," the Pope could be wrong. How can something be wrong today when it might be right tomorrow?

It is not true to say that because the Pope did not speak infallibly he could be wrong. The Holy Father did not speak infallibly because there is still much that is not known about the making of new life. What is wrong today will not be right tomorrow, and what may be right tomorrow, with new knowledge, would not have been wrong today. Furthermore, the Pope may not take a chance with something as sacred as new and human life, and with something that may be divine law.

The Pope is right to speak; what he said is the teaching of Christ. Those who do not listen are wrong because they are not "hearing Christ." May God bless you.

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ARRIVAL AT CAMP — Greg Hauser is surrounded by his family as he prepares for week's stay at Camp Stella Maris, diocesan camp on Conesus Lake. Oscar and Ruth Hauser are shown with rest of family, Stephen, Veronica, Claudia, Michael and Paula. They attend St. Ambrose parish. Camp openings are still available for boys (ages 7-15) from July 20 to Aug. 2, and for girls (ages 8-14) from Aug. 3 to 16.

Aquinas Units Honored Twice
Last weekend was one of triumph for the marching band and color guard of Aquinas Institute.
Friday night, the marching unit put on a colorful drill to highlight the half-time program at a Toronto Argonaut exhibition game.
On Saturday morning, the Aquinas band and color guard participated in a parade and judging in Shortsville, N.Y., as part of the 7th District American Legion convention. The New York State Champion Aquinas color guard won first place in the event.

M/L NEWS NOTES

As you know, the "Grand-Opening" for the Money Labels program will be September 1. This is when you'll start in earnest to save those valuable proofs of purchase from M/L products.

We salute our M/L Chairmen. Most of you have been very much on the ball. You've conveniently attended one of our earlier informational meetings so that you'd have the whole M/L story; and you've followed this up by quickly supplying us in turn with all necessary information. What to do now that this first big stage in M/L is completed?

A little later in the summer we'll be sending out some official material to be used for promoting the program. Meanwhile, "word of mouth" advertising will help a great deal. In other words, tell any members you meet that, first of all, your group has joined this fund-raising endeavor, explain briefly what it's all about, and ask their cooperation.

Some of you may belong to groups which send out a bulletin or newsletter to members. If so, this is an excellent medium to use for "spreading the word." At this time the notice needn't be a detailed explanation. Merely mention that your group has registered for the Courier-Journal's Money Labels program, that it's a brand new concept in fund-raising, a method which is not only cost-free but will actually mean personal profit for them. Thus you'll pique their curiosity and prepare them, so to speak, for the official start of the program in September.

We welcome all requests for information about MONEY LABELS. However, when you do make inquiries, be sure to identify the GROUP concerned since you can participate only through a group. Call 546-5140 or 865-1554, fill out the coupon below or contact one of the following Courier representatives: Auburn Region—Mr. Jack Madden, 71 Nelson St., Auburn 315-252-9232; Elmira Region—Mr. Basil Vallancourt, 371 Robinson Bldg., Elmira 601-732-5688; Dansville Region—Mr. Andy Mazzella, 80 Platt St. Hornell 607-324-2960. Mail the coupon to Money Labels, Courier Journal, 35 Scio St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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