

# Can Boxing Help Stop Violence?

Catholic Press Features

Syracuse — Could boxing help stop violence on college campuses?

Carmen Basilio, one-time middle-weight and welter-weight champion of the world and now a physical education instructor at Jesuit-operated Le Moyne College, won't make any campus fight predictions, but he's convinced that colleges which dropped the sport threw in the towel unnecessarily.

Basilio, who won the welterweight title in 1955 and the middleweight crown — from Sugar Ray Robinson — in 1957, was interviewed by veteran fight announcer Don Dunphy for a series of sports-and-morals programs.

DUNPHY: "I wonder if it might help if college boxing came back. Now there's a sport that was a fine sport about 10 or 15 years ago, and yet because of some of the deaths in the ring, and they seem to go in cycles, these things — there were a couple almost together back

## Basilio: It's Better Than Mugging People

around '62 and '63 — many of the colleges dropped boxing. What do you think?"

BASILIO: "I still think it's a fine college sport, but the colleges have dropped it, and I think they're wrong in doing so. If you stop to think about it, how many high school boys died from injuries in football last year and the year before? I don't know the number from last year, but the year before, 33 high school boys were killed in high school football in one way or another. And there weren't any 33 boxers killed.

"Of course, we don't have the (number of) matches we used to have, but I don't think there ever was any year in the history of boxing, when boxing was at its greatest height, that there

were any 33 boxers killed.

Asked his opinion of a moral campaign launched several years ago to do away with boxing, Basilio, who admitted he was always "a mean fighter," commented:

"The way that I look at it that these people that are against boxing, saying that it's violent, they have to realize that the boys that are boxing, the majority of them, are boys that are not educated, from poorer families, and never had an opportunity to get a good job.

Now if these same boys are in the gymnasium burning up their energy, training to box each other in the ring, I think this is better than having them walk the streets doing nothing, and

giving them ideas to mug people."

Basilio said he thought the greatest harm done to boxing was by the boxing commissioners who did not look out for the fighters' retirement years, with the result that many former boxers are now destitute or working at menial jobs.

The boxing commissioners, he said, "draw pretty good pay, from the taxpayers' money, say, \$10,500 a year. But they've done nothing for the boxers except supervise them; they've done nothing to set up a retirement plan where they would take a certain percentage of their gross purse so that when they quit fighting, this would be a pension plan set up for them. And they always talk about how cruel boxing is, and boxers wind up with nothing."

"Years ago, had they been doing this when there was a lot of boxing matches going, imagine what kind of a pension fund they could have had now with good investments in it."

## Seminary Setup Changed

Milwaukee — (NC) — An experimental change in the format of the Milwaukee archdiocese's two seminaries has been announced by Msgr. William Schuit, rector of St. Francis Seminary.

The changes, effective in September, will:

- Make De Sales Preparatory Seminary a four-year high school;

- Create a four-year college program that will offer a B.A. in theology;

- Make St. Francis Major Seminary a four-year graduate program offering for the first time a master's degree in theology, which will be an accredited professional and not a research degree. The major seminary will be considered "a school of pastoral ministry."

In the new college program, theology will be the major, philosophy the minor. The seminary formerly offered about 32 hours of philosophy, but the amount will be reduced to about 16 hours so a heavier emphasis can be placed on general theology background.

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## 17 Jewish Chaplains Enter Armed Forces

New York — (RNS) — Seventeen new Jewish chaplains have just entered the U.S. armed forces, the Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy of the National Jewish Welfare Board reported here.

Although the number of chaplains entering the armed forces is greater than the nine reported last year at the same time, the total number of full-time military and Veterans Administration Jewish chaplains on duty is only 56-12 less than last year's total.

Rabbi A. Elihu Michaelson, director of programming services for the Jewish chaplaincy commission said there were two factors contributing to the decrease: first, a greater number of chaplains completing their normal term of duty; and second, the unpopularity of the Vietnam war.

"Rabbis can't see asking their colleagues to serve in the military establishment at a time when the United States is involved in a war most feel is a mistake," explained Rabbi Michaelson.

But the commission executive stressed that Jewish men in the armed forces and veterans' hospitals will not be without spiritual guidance because of the shortage in full-time chaplains.

"We have made a strenuous effort to involve lay leaders in conducting Jewish programs," the rabbi reported, "and for the High Holidays we will send civilian rabbis into military installations to conduct services and meet the needs of the military personnel."

More than 250 civilian rabbis are regularly serving as part-time chaplains.

## Anglican Primates May Press For Union with Methodists

London — (RNS) — The Church of England's two Primates will issue a joint pastoral on union with Britain's Methodists following a special private meeting of diocesan bishops at Lambeth Palace.

Calling of the meeting was announced only a few hours in advance but the topics were kept secret. A Church spokesman said later, however, that it was attended by 40 of the 43 diocesan bishops, including the two Primates, Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury and Archbishop Donald Coggan of York.

The spokesman also said the archbishops used the meeting to take counsel with the diocesan bishops on the future of Anglican-Methodist relations. On July 8 the Methodist Conference voted by the necessary majority to enter the first stage of union with the Church of England

but the Anglican Convocations failed to meet the required 75 per cent approval.



### In Memoriam

At top, Marines of the 3rd Shore Party Battalion attend the dedication of the outfit's new Memorial Park. At a chapel service they hear their commanding officer state that "this memorial was built and is now being dedicated to the memory of those men who paid the fullest measure in the service of their country." Below, Honor Guard of the First Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, fire salute to Marines who died during battles attending Operation Apache Snow, Cameron Falls and Utah Mesa. Memorial was held at Vandegrift Combat Base as battalion prepared to redeploy to Okinawa under President Nixon's order returning some servicemen from Vietnam.

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