

3 Sisterhoods Face Up to Problem of Retirements

By JOHN MEEHAN
(NC News Service)

Louisville — Sisters wear out.

The extent of the sometimes-mentioned but seldom-surveyed problem of aging nuns is shown by retirement figures for three communities which have their headquarters in the Louisville archdiocese.

The figures are awesome and Jesuit General Links Gospel With Politics

Madrid — (NC) — The superior general of the Jesuits has said that members of his order must not avoid political involvement when involvement is necessary to combat social injustice.

Father Pedro Arrupe, S.J., said in an interview that to take a passive political attitude before social injustice is to thwart the Gospel and to feed inequality.

"There is political involvement at the highest level when you fight social injustices," he told the Madrid magazine, Indice.

"Often political decisions and actions in the secular world violate and harm fundamental rights, thus frustrating the true meaning of human existence for the individual and for the community. How, for instance, can a Jesuit priest remain passive in the face of racial injustice, or in the face of institutionalized violence? To remain inactive would mean betraying our calling in life."

"Freedom from factional politics is a basic condition of our boldness in taking the action needed in the supra-political field of man and mankind," he said.

Share the Wealth Program Works In Newark See

Newark, N.J. — (NC) — In the six months since Archbishop Thomas A. Boland asked the more solvent parishes of the Newark archdiocese to aid urban parishes, more than \$50,000 in special assistance has been distributed.

Archbishop Boland made his appeal last March 30, asking those who could afford to do so to underwrite the cost of maintenance, individual classrooms, a teacher or some other expense. His appeal was directed to individuals as well as parishes.

Special help has been given to three parishes in Newark and three in Jersey City. All of them are located in inner city areas and are engaged heavily in community programs although they no longer cater to the number of Catholics they once did.

Detroit Priests To Specialize

Detroit — (NC) — Priests, who traditionally have been expected to do their best with whatever problem troubled a parishioner, will be encouraged to qualify as specialists in particular areas under a continuing education program announced by John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit.

Hundreds of priests are expected to take courses designed to increase their competence in a specialty.

The program will be coordinated by Father F. Gerald Martin, former vice rector of Sacred Heart Seminary.

"Today's priest is like today's doctor, or any other professional man," Father Martin said. "He has to study continually just to keep even with the world's progress."

"Today's priest must be able to know how to bring to the problems of men the talents of psychologists, lawyers, social scientists and others."

ITALIAN APPOINTED Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has appointed Antonio Cardinal Poma of Bologna as the new president of the Italian Bishops' Conference.

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reflect more than a regional phenomenon. Not caused by any specific problems within the communities, they may be a typical indicator of national trends.

For example, the three communities—Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Sisters of Loretto and Ursuline Sisters of Louisville—are widespread in their scope of service. Sisters from the three communities serve in some two dozen states from coast to coast.

And the three communities run the gamut in their reaction to such current movements as "re-advance" or "renewal," reflecting every feeling from the avant garde to the traditional.

The three communities have a total membership of 2,900. Some 480 nuns, 16 per cent of the total, now are retired. In the years immediately ahead even greater numbers of nuns will retire. Examples, as furnished by officials, are:

- The Sisters of Loretto have 157 retired members, but an additional 100 nuns are more than 65 and still working. In another decade, the total number of retired Sisters of Loretto will reach 250 to 300.

- The Sisters of Charity also can count on a retirement surge—half of its some 1,400 members are 64 or older.

- The Ursuline Sisters have 113 of its 532 members on the

retired list. Some 170 more are expected to retire in the next decade.

The communities are taking steps to meet the needs of their aging Sisters. From assignment of nuns to full-time work in the retirement field to the provision of retirement houses for both those who are physically able and for those who are physically infirm.

Some nuns assigned to the retirement work are getting advanced degrees in gerontology. Still others are working on pre-retirement surveys to attempt to plan ahead to provide activities or second careers for nuns who will be retiring.

The Sisters of Charity are

working on the medical side of the problem. They recently established a physical therapy clinic and a health office to provide a screening and diagnostic service and to encourage systematic physical checkups for nuns. Both facilities are open to members of other religious communities.

Such endeavors were summed up by Sister Annette Rader, of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, who supervises a retirement home for nuns: "We must remember that we owe these Sisters a great deal. Without them and their sacrifices, there would be no order."

The practical problems were summed up by Sister Mary Luke

Tobin, superior general of the Sisters of Loretto and former chairman of the National Conference of Major Superiors of Women:

"The problem of finances is great and will become increasingly greater. Federal social security laws specifically exclude religious with the vow of poverty, so Sisters are not eligible for Social Security benefits. Nor is the income of the Sisters, most of whom teach in parochial schools, sufficient to finance private retirement programs. Also, if the number of young people entering religious communities does not increase, the problem of providing for the aged will be further complicated."

Courier-Journal — Friday, Oct. 10, 1969 18

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MS Will C To W Bishop

Bishop Sheen resignation of Bishop of Rochester same dramatic marked his the shepherd.

Speaking to ha men from the Rochester and television of his office with cables and record Wednesday morning not resigning from ing to regenerate

"It is with co that I leave. But joy and happiness people of the tall, handsome, Bishop, Joseph I

Six feet, four complexioned, seen, the new Bishop the press stand Sheen's desk.

Disclosing a lously delighted vealed that on Monday, he had per Paul VI to permit diocesan burden: their asked him hoped the retir the Bishop chose anniversary of h

"The Holy Fa called, "wrote t a question: " asked what the he answered: " after that."

Newmen pre with the obvious please tell us wh for retirement a quest a whole y time you would submit a resign

"No, I will a firmly but with son is known o ther."

Asked if his courage him, t sponded: "In th may never beco remember these Lord is cleaning comfortable to when its cleani

The Bishop w the leadership c case just less t ago — October installed in his s of that year.

He announced to New York C Bishop-designate and installation ber 27 at Sacre

The priests, especially cited consolation, i glorious, good r ing, "organizing, dust and fire o clothes."

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