

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Charges Against Priest Dropped

A Minneapolis priest who was arrested after he attempted to lead a "Mass for peace" in the concourse of the Pentagon Building Aug. 14 has been found innocent of a charge of "unwarranted loitering and assembly."

Charges against Father Harold Bury, Newman Center chaplain at the University of Minnesota, and other peace demonstrators at the Pentagon were dropped by U.S. Magistrate Stanley King, who held that a General Service Administration regulation could not be enforced.

Father Bury said the Mass was stopped after the first prayers. It was being held in the concourse of the Pentagon.

Father Bury was invited by the Catholic Peace Fellowship to lead the peace Mass, which was the final event of a Quaker-organized demonstration during which names of the Vietnam war dead were read on the steps of the Pentagon.

Church Profit Tax Nearer

The Senate Finance Committee has approved a House of Representatives-passed measure which will tax profits churches receive from businesses not related to religion.

Churches and synagogues, operating such enterprises, along with other non-profit organizations would be subject to the regular 48 per cent corporation tax rate should the bill be passed by the Senate. Passage is expected.

The tax will apply to profits received from factories, hotels, restaurants, service stations, radio or television stations and other types of businesses which do not have a direct link to religion functions.

Women Chaplains?

Dr. A. Ray Applequist, executive secretary of the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel, predicted that "in years to come" women will be chaplains in the armed forces.

Dr. Applequist noted that Mrs. Phyllis Keller Ingram has become the first federally recognized woman chaplain in American military history.

Mrs. Ingram, a widow of Greenfield, Mass., had served unofficially for a number of years as an officer-clergyman in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), an auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and, after some delay, won official recognition as a CAP chaplain.

(Mrs. Ingram, a qualified flying instructor who owns her own plane, is a staff minister at Greenfield's Second Congregational Church.

(A 49-year-old mother of two sons, Mrs. Ingram received her ministerial training at the Virginia Theological Seminary, an Episcopal institution in Alexandria, Va.)

People

Pope Paul VI has named Msgr. George E. Lynch, 52, to be auxiliary to Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh, N.C. Bishop-elect Lynch has served in the Raleigh diocese, which includes the entire state of North Carolina (except for Belmont Abbey in Belmont), since 1946. He has been vicar-general since May 1968. . . The Women's Committee of the Japan International Christian University (ICU) Foundation, has named Mrs. Ralph Bunche, wife of the under-secretary general of the United Nations, as the 1970 Project Chairman. . . A descendant of the last king of Hawaii was elected here as the first bishop of the recently independent Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii. The Rev. Edwin Lani Hanchett, is descended from King Kamehameha and from New England settlers on the island of Kauai. His father, A. Kauma Hanchett, was the first doctor of Hawaiian descent to practice in the islands.

Lay Group Opposes Private School Aid

Washington (NC)—The National Association of Laymen (NAL) has issued a statement expressing unequivocal opposition to state aid to parochial schools.

The statement cited three main reasons why the Catholic lay group opposes such aid:

- "Marked cleavage on this issue within the Catholic community."
- Incompleteness of financial data supplied by Church officers."
- "Growing sentiment in favor of phasing out parochial schools."

NAL, which claims to represent "a significant and growing number of mainstream Catholics" opposing aid to parochial schools, has a membership of 12,000 in 24 chapters in the country. Its central office is located here.

Nun Congress Described as 'Mini-Revolution'

Paris (RNS) — A French "mini-revolution" took place here during the three-day ninth national congress of Catholic nuns and religious workers, with the nuns asking for a "greater role in religious and social life."

Some 3,000 delegates received encouragement from Bishop Gerard Huyghe of Arras, France, when he said "the Church does not give women the place recognized for them in the Gospels."

"Nuns must continue to demonstrate their human and ecclesiastical abilities. Why shouldn't there be women theologians or philosophers? The Church would profit if it granted women their true place according to the plan of God," he said.

Some speakers cited Vatican II as a precedent for this position as well as the social and student revolt of May 1968. They noted that many nuns, wishing to "move into the world," are abandoning custom by living in apartments, working in factories, taking part in public and social organizations and joining trade unions.



Support "Rebel" Parish

Two dissident French priests, Father Jean Marie Trillard and Father Robert Davezies, express their solidarity with the "rebel" Isolotto Parish in Florence, Italy, by concelebrating an unauthorized open-air Mass in front of the church. The former pastor in Isolotto, Father Enzo Mazzi, and his supporters in the working-class parish have been barred from the church by Ermengildo Cardinal Florit, Archbishop of Florence, since last December because of their emphasis on social questions and their support of controversial Church reform efforts. (Religious News Service)

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Public School In Church Rooms Upheld by Judge

Madison, Wis. (RNS) — A circuit court judge has ruled children may attend public school in rented space in a Catholic church without violation of their constitutional rights.

An injunction had been sought against the Madison Board of Education which has leased two classrooms in St. Joseph's Catholic Church while a new elementary school is being constructed.

Dr. Nathaniel Calloway claimed his daughter, a kindergarten pupil was compelled to attend a religious institution. He also alleged public money was being used to support a religious institution, contrary to the state constitution.

Judge William Sachtjen held that the "primary effect of the lease between the school district and church is not the advancement of the church but the advancement of the education of City of Madison students."

He said it was "clear that the mere showing that tax money is being paid to a sectarian institution is not enough, under the law, to establish a violation. The plaintiff must also show that the purpose and primary effect of the payment is benefit to the religious institution."

Eighty-four kindergarten children in two sections are based to the church building. The classrooms are located in a wing of the church. The classrooms are rented for \$100 a month.

Catholic - Divorcees 'Gems' Formed to Help Enrich Their Lives

Eastbay, Calif. — (NC) — Catholic women who have been divorced, in addition to being burdened with the material and psychological problems accompanying a marital breakup, also frequently feel cut off from the Church.

In an effort to help those in such a predicament and, if possible, to prevent others from experiencing the same misery, a group of women, Catholic and divorced, calling themselves the "Gems" has been established here.

Purpose of the Gems—acronym for Generosity, Empathy, Maturity, Service—is to "establish communication between divorced Catholic women through love, friendship and mutual understanding, in order that through their Christian approach to life, they, in turn, may enrich the lives of those around them."

It aims also to "bring before civil and church officials the problems that beset divorced women and their children, and to appeal in a reasonable manner for change where it is possible and where it is needed."

Gems membership is open to all Catholic divorcees who are interested. It is possible for divorced non-Catholic women to join the Gems, if they feel that membership will help them live better Christian lives.

They are warned, however, that since divorced Catholics who have been validly married are not allowed to remarry, the emphasis at the meetings is how to "live with it," not how to find another mate.

Gems is interracial in composition, and also has a large proportion of older women—an indication that many Catholic divorcees are not irresponsible young girls, unwilling to try to "make a go" of unfavorable or disappointing marriages, but mature women who have prayerfully considered alternatives.

Regular meetings are scheduled once a month in members' homes, with additional social gatherings decided by the members themselves.

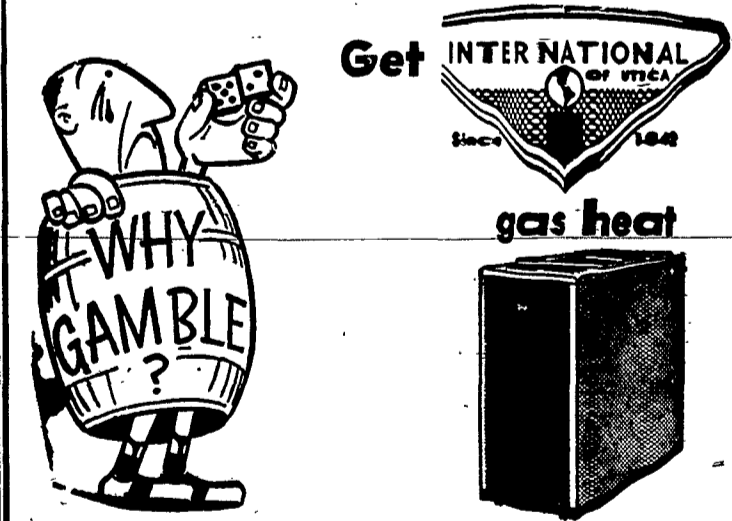
The Gems are organizing into small groups, not more than 10 or 12 to a chapter, in several communities in California's Alameda and Contra Costa counties, within the Oakland diocese. Parish priests have been asked to recommend women interested in joining such a group.

Any divorced Catholic woman who feels an urgent need to "just talk to someone who knows what divorce feels like and have her courage renewed," is advised to make an emergency call to the Oakland Sisters of Social Service, who will then have a member of the Gems get in touch with the caller.

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