

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Milwaukee Adopts Church Levy

The Milwaukee City Council has abandoned a controversial sewer service charge which had aroused the opposition of churches, hospitals and other tax-exempt institutions. Such agencies would have been charged a fee based on assessed valuation of their properties.

However, the council repealed that ordinance and replaced it with a measure which will levy a charge for sewer service equal to 150 per cent of the tax-exempt institution's water bill. It will take effect Jan. 1.

The charge will be made every three months along with the institution's water bills. It will apply to churches, colleges, public schools, cemeteries, hospitals and nursing homes, government properties, and utilities.

It will produce an estimated \$1.5 million a year for the city, compared with \$2.5 under the original measure.

U.S. Renounces Germ Warfare

President Nixon announced here that the U.S. has renounced the use of all methods of "biological" warfare.

However, he said, it maintains the right to use "chemical" weapons if they are first used by the enemy.

Biological warfare—sometimes called "germ warfare"—relies on producing communicable diseases which can affect entire populations. Chemical agents do not have an epidemic capability, operating only on individuals.

Yom Kippur Public Holiday?

A bill, pre-filed in the New York State Legislature, advocates that the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur be made a legal public holiday.

The measure, sponsored by State Sen. John J. Santucci of Queens, was among several which were introduced in advance of the session beginning in January.

Santucci said his bill would recognize "the most important and solemn day of the year to people of the Jewish faith."

Guaranteed Income Backed

The Massachusetts Council of Churches has approved a policy statement which calls for a guaranteed annual income of \$5,100 for a family of four in Massachusetts.

The agreement, arrived at during an assembly of the 18-denomination organization, pledges members to support welfare recipients "in their struggle to secure their rights and needs."

The statement said that the public has widely misunderstood the problems of welfare. "Historically," it said, "our churches sometimes have been the purveyors of a distorted version of the 'Protestant ethic' which regarded economic success as a symbol of divine favor and economic failure as a symptom of demonic character."

Ted Kennedy Vote Runnerup

Sen. Edward Kennedy didn't get the most votes, but he still won the election. He's one of 15 members of the parish council at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C.

Sen. Kennedy, a resident of McLean, Va., who frequently attends Mass at Holy Trinity with his wife, Joan, received 277 votes but was nosed out by Don De Vol, a funeral director, who had 279.

Holy Trinity, the oldest Catholic church in the area, was attended frequently by the late President John F. Kennedy.



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Priest Learns First-Hand

The Depression of Poverty

Youngstown, Ohio—(NC)—Thousands of persons spend endless weeks of depression in the inner-cities because of poverty and their powerlessness to overcome it. There is no relief for them, not even

from Catholic charitable organizations.

The situation is sometimes difficult for the affluent to understand. Sometimes all they know about the inner-cities is what they read in textbooks.

Recently 12 ministers and three priests in a project for the Clergy Internship Program at Case Western Reserve University, put on work clothes and took to the streets to find out whether they could survive. For a week they were in their own words, "peniless, powerless, and nameless."

Magr. P. Breen Malone, pastor of St. Patrick's church here and impostor among the poor, was one of those to live the poor life in Cleveland.

After failing to obtain some decent clothing from the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the priest asked a clerk:

"Is there any Catholic institution in Cleveland that can take care of me?"

The clerk replied, "No, I don't think there is."

After sampling Cleveland's bleak inner-city life, he emerged depressed at what he found, and determined to make affluent persons more



Pope Hails Cursillos

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul paid particular attention to members of Cursillo groups from Italy, Spain and Portugal here, holding them up as examples of a reawakening of Christian conscience serving the modern world.

The Pope said the Cursillos de Cristiandad (Little Courses in Christianity) movement, which has spread throughout the world is "strong Catholic testimony which can arise in the laity as consolation for a Church disturbed by so many problems and more than ever obliged to serve the modern world."

"The need is so great today that the official ministry of the Church is not enough," he said. "Christ's cause must be advanced by all, spreading the truth of revelation of his divine message and of the wonderful plan of salvation offered to us by the Gospel."

At lower right, an unidentified Catholic priest says Mass for Marines at a fire support base in South Vietnam.

Navy Chaplains Celebrate Anniversary

Thousands of Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families will join Navy chaplains throughout the world today (Nov. 28) to observe the 194th anniversary of the Navy Chaplains Corps. Of an estimated 1,050 Navy chaplains on active duty, more than 450 of them, representing 40 denominations, have served in Vietnam. Some aspects of the variety of chaplains' duties are shown in these photos.

At upper left, Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Frederick E. Whitaker of the Fourth Marine Regiment, holds services for leathernecks on mountainous ridgeline near the Rockpile in northern area of South Vietnam. At upper right, Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Robert J. Kelly, 12 Jewish persons, led by lay leader Seaman Ed Leslie, hold the traditional Passover Seder aboard the carrier Kearsarge. The Navy Chief of Chaplains,

Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, is shown at lower left greeting Airman Apprentice John DeFazio of San Jose, Calif., following Sunday morning services at the Memphis, Tenn., Naval Air Station. Chaplain Kelly pays frequent visits to Navy and Marine fire support bases throughout the world.

Can 16-Year-Old Officiate at Marriage?

Reprinted from the Daily Record
Can a 16-year-old boy who claims that he is a minister of the Universal Life Church of the State of California perform a marriage ceremony in New York State?

In response to a request for an opinion on the question, Atty. Gen. Louis J. Lefkowitz answered in the negative, because of vagueness in state statutes.

In an informal opinion, Lefkowitz said:

"Nowhere do I find a statutory provision relative to the age at which one may solemnize a marriage. While I recognize that a presumption of validity attaches to all ceremonial marriages, no matter by whom they are performed, as a matter of public policy such a ceremony should not be performed by a person under the age of 21."

"Marriage is, above all, a civil contract and all necessary participants in such a ceremony should have reached the age of maturity unless the statute otherwise provides."

"The need for maturity in a minister performing a marriage ceremony is underscored by the serious responsibilities imposed on a minister by Domestic Relations Law, Secs. 13-b and 17."

"Of course, the statute should also be amended by the Legislature to clarify this issue."

The statute reads: "A clergyman or minister of any religion

having authority of his denomination, order, church or synagogue may solemnize marriages in this state whether or not ordained, a resident of this state or occupying a pulpit."

"There is no statutory provision relative to the age at which one may solemnize a marriage," the attorney general said.

In his opinion, Lefkowitz pointed out that no basis or standard is set forth in the statutes or in any other statute of this state by which the term "religion" may be defined.

Any attempt to do so, he said, "might be held to be an encroachment by the state upon the freedom of religion and of persons to worship or organize for worship as they choose."

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Decline in Vocations Seems to Be Slowing

NC News Service
Detroit—The sharp drop in vocations across the United States and Canada from 1964 to 1968 appears to be slowing, according to figures compiled by the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.

The figures, however, cannot demonstrate if this is a temporary plateau or the bottom in the decline.

In contrast to the 50% drop in high school seminary enrollment reported by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), from 1964 to 1968, this year's freshman classes will be only 4% smaller than last year's.

The report shows that 32 seminary high schools noted increases in freshman enrollment; 29 noted decreases; and six have the same enrollment. Total enrollment is

2,313 in the beginning class as compared to 2,425 for 1968.

At the seminary-college level, 45 seminaries marked larger freshman classes; 53 had smaller ones; and eight repeated last year's enrollment. This means 1,729 collegians are studying in diocesan seminaries this year while 1,790 studied last year, a drop of only 4% again.

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