

Diocesan School Study Scheduled

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schools is very possible. But the decision must involve study of all possible facts."

Concurrently with the Mercy Sisters' personal visitation to all schools, the Pastoral Office is conducting a financial study of all parish records examining "cost-per-pupil figures" and all diocesan teachers and principals are doing a self-evaluation on their classroom work.

Last September 5 Archbishop Sheen in a public statement on the future of parochial education declared that the diocese was seriously concerned about the pressures which might force the closing of some schools but promised that democratic consultation would be held between parishioners and pastors before closing decisions were made.

Bishop Hogan, who has made the schools one of the top priorities of his administration, has fully authorized the intensive fact-finding program about to begin.

The survey will focus on guiding administrative decisions of the future and will not make judgments on individuals in the schools, Sister Patricia and Father Brent insisted.

They explained that vital to the decision to close a school will be such questions as: What impact will this have on parish life? What do the majority of the parishioners wish for their school? What will be the impact on the local public school district?

Speculation whether future parish schools will be "area as opposed to parochial", "free as opposed to tuition", "general as opposed to special", will be clarified when the diocese knows the exact situation of the schools' problems.

Questions to be asked of principals and pastors will concern: lay-teacher availability and salary-structure, services of parochial school beyond the daily academic work, transportation problems of the pupils, relations with the local school district, teacher qualifications and degrees, replacement and restoration plans for school buildings, faculty stability, significant attendance decline and parish acceptance of tuition fees.

Sister Patricia, a member of the Sisters of Mercy for 20 years, taught 12 years in high schools (Aquinas, Mercy and Notre Dame) before becoming principal of the Elmira school in 1964. She has a BA from Nazareth college, an MA from Niagara University and has done post-graduate work at Cornell and the University of Massachusetts.



Cardinal and The President

Maximilian Cardinal de Fursenberg, prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Rite Churches, presents two religious volumes to President Nixon. The cardinal is currently touring the U.S. to visit Eastern Rite prelates and parishes. A White House aide told newsmen that the meeting was in line with Mr. Nixon's desire "to maintain close relations with the Vatican." (RNS)

Women Ushers Named By Minneapolis Parish

Minneapolis — (RNS) — Women are serving as ushers at St. Olaf Catholic Church, a downtown parish here.

Some women have been passing out parish bulletins for 18 months, and they were asked to take on ushering duties by Father Francis J. Fleming, pastor.

"The practice of having men only serve as ushers is one of long standing in the Church, but like other customs that have come to impede rather than promote worship, it is time for a change," Father Fleming wrote in the parish bulletin.

"There is a special problem at St. Olaf because so few unattached males come to church here and when operating out of a shortage, people are not properly seated. More importantly, the taking of the collection reaches into the time for the consecration of the Mass."

"The obvious solution," Father Fleming added, "is to ask the ladies for help. Women are now taking positions in church affairs which have been denied them all too long. They serve on parish councils, as parish trustees, choir directors, lectors, instrumentalists, leaders of song, etc. One has recently been elected president of the National Council of Churches.

"Against this backdrop women

ushers should certainly not be out of place.

"They serve in theatres, concert halls and as hostesses in many of our restaurants. In point of fact, their not serving as ushers in Church is something of an anomaly.

"So ladies, enough of the encrustation of the past. Your Church needs you.

"Step right up, seat the People of God, and pass that bucket before them . . . slowly."

Pope Thanks K. of C. For 'Staunch Loyalty'

New Haven, Conn. — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has found "warm consolation" in the knowledge that he can count on the "staunch loyalty and active support" of many Catholics, Archbishop Giovanni Benelli, substitute papal secretary of state, said in a message to the Knights of Columbus.

The message, sent to Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt at the K. of C. headquarters here, expressed gratitude for a resolution of loyalty adopted last August by delegates to the 87th annual meeting of the K. of C. supreme council here.

Family Movies: Fading Slowly In the West?

New York — (NC) — The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures said that a smaller number and percentage of movies suitable for general audiences were produced in 1969 than in any 12-month period of the Catholic film rating office's existence.

During the year, NCOMP reported, of 315 films reviewed, only 26, or

8.25%, received an A-I (general audience rating), while 40, or 12.70%, were given a C (condemned) rating.

"If NCOMP had applied the same rigorous policy (concerning the employment of even insignificant nudity in film treatment) which had been in effect until October of 1968, the number of C movies during the current year would have been at least double the present total," the report stated.

The appraisal was contained in the year-end (Dec. 30) report of the Catholic agency's Catholic Film Newsletter.

In addition to the A-I and C classified films, the office reported 47, or 14.92%, were rated A-II (morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents); 126, or 40%, A-III (morally unobjectionable for adults); 28, or

8.89%, A-IV (morally unobjectionable for adults with reservations), and 48, or 15.24%, B (morally objectionable in part for all).

The NCOMP said lack of moral and artistic qualities in 1969 movie making hurt the industry. It stated: "The family and over-30 audience is staying home, not only because television is still free, but also because they consider it idiotic to pay to be bored or offended."

"As a new decade begins NCOMP can only wish the best of success to the motion picture industry, for in its hands is the medium that can create a new era of human enrichment, cultural and spiritual, for us all. There are, however, no short-cuts, computerized or other, to artistic achievement; its basic ingredients must include a respect for man," the Catholic agency statement asserted.

Collegiality to Be Main Objective, Bp. Hogan Says

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do I intend any display of power in answer to problems."

In a ringing plea for support of Pope Paul's third New Year's Day peace appeal, Bishop Hogan asked his listeners to make a three-fold effort to "build together a world of peace that is more just":

- "at the level of the individual: through a reconciliation of man with man, among all of us who come together in day to day life." Hatred, he said, which causes division among men is a sickness which "can be cured only by the personal effort of reconciliation of hearts."

- "at the level of structures, through an effort of participation in strengthening peace in family institutions, neighborhoods, and structures of national and international life."

- "at the level of the mental approach, that there may be a better understanding among generations, various cultures and national mentalities."

The Bishop's strongest spiritual note was struck in this paragraph: "May all of us in 1970 grow to a greater awareness that time's greatest value is the opportunity it presents to us to abandon 'ungodliness and world desires' and to live every moment that the goodness of the Lord holds for us in the presence of Him in whom alone there is no change nor shadow of alteration."

Pontiff Greet Epiphany Crowd, Affirms God's Presence in World

Vatican City — (NC) — Holiday crowds in St. Peter's Square were treated to an extra bonus on the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6) as Pope Paul VI drove around the square in a small motorcade prior to his Angelus talk at noon.

In spring-like weather and under blue skies, Pope Paul stood in his "slide-top" black limousine to acknowledge the cheers of a noisy crowd. He was on his way to visit a new addition to the College of St. Peter the Apostle, founded in 1947 primarily to house missionary students from Africa, Oceania, Asia and Latin America.

Speaking to the residents of the college, who come from 105 dioceses in 35 different countries, Pope Paul emphasized the parallel of so many students of diverse backgrounds displaying their oneness, just as the composition of the new building demonstrated variety in unity.

He reminded the priests that theirs is not "a hotel or simply a 'pension,' but a college which must bring forth

their collegiality, a communion, a fusion of their spirits that has already started and is realized and which ought to continue to exist even when (you) priests are spread over the four corners of the globe."

Returning to the papal apartment for the Angelus and the blessing of the crowd, which more than half filled the square, Pope Paul spoke of the Feast of the Epiphany, a national holiday in Italy. He said that Epiphany offered Christ on display to the whole world.

"How and to whom is Christ made manifest?" he asked. In answer, the Pope said that a "religious darkness, as a spiritual night," has invaded the modern world and makes man say that God is dead.

"No, God is not dead . . . Our eyes are closed and see no more the divine aurora and they are dazzled by the light of scientific knowledge . . . Christ as a star appears in this darkness. He who knows how to discover Him, to come to know Him and to believe in Him, enters a new area of light."



JAN. 13-25 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This is the poster for the 1970 Ecumenical Institute of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches.

Bishop's P Hailed in I

Jackson, Miss. — (RNS) — A liminary meeting of statewide religious leaders was held here a favorable reaction to a Catholic plea for action to curb wider racial polarization in Mississippi.

The meeting, aimed at setting a statewide conference with a complete representation of church leadership, came as a result of a Christmas message issued by Bishop Joseph B. Brunini of Natchez-Jackson.

In that message, the bishop said that Christmas 1969 offers Christ and their leaders "an opportunity to make a tremendous leap forward. He said that from his contacts with Protestant and Jewish leaders he believed the "time is ripe" for a united voice to be heard throughout Mississippi "to help lead our people out of bondage."

Primate Hails B On Death Penalt

London — (RNS) — The pe next abolition of capital punishment for murder in Britain will honor nation, according to Dr. Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury, spiritual leader of the world's Anglicans.

In a formal statement issued shortly after both houses of Parliament agreed to abolish the death penalty he said:

"Abolition of capital punishment and for all, will help create a more civilized society in which continue the search for the cure of crime, and to continue experim in penal reform. I sympathize those who are worried about the government's decision, but I am certain that it will redound in very many ways to the advantage and honor of the nation."

There has been no official Roman Catholic statement on the issue since recently, but it would appear there is division in their ranks as there is in the population at large. This was admitted in a communique the mass circulating Catholic paper, the Universe, just before the House of Lords' decision.

This newspaper said, "The Church has always in the past upheld the state's right to execute criminals though there is some difficulty in covering what precisely is its position on capital punishment. The reason for this is that Catholics have not been prominent in debates on the subject that have been going on over the world, particularly since the war."

2 Million Urge Dr. King Holiday

New York — (RNS) — More than 2 million signatures asking the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., be made a national holiday have been turned over to a committee making the proposed observance said here.

The Citizens Committee for Martin Luther King Holiday asks the U.S. and New York State declare a day to mark the life and work of the civil rights leader in April, 1968.

At least two bills advocating a holiday were in the House of Representatives' Committee of the Judiciary when Congress adjourned in December. Congress is not due to convene until Jan. 19.

The birthday of Dr. King will be marked in New York City by a day of public and parochial observances. There will be a rally in Central Park and other special observances.

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