



**Fr. Peyton in Guatemala**

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., founder and director of the Family Rosary Crusade, addresses more than 100,000 persons who turned out in Guatemala City's spacious Campo de Marte for a Family Prayer Rally. The rally climaxed a five-month crusade by the famed Rosary priest which reached all 12 dioceses and three ecclesiastical territories in Guatemala. (Religious News Service)

**World Synod Rated Top Religious Story**

(NC News Service)  
Washington — The second World Synod of Bishops which met in Rome during October was rated first among the top ten stories of 1969, according to a survey of editors conducted by NC News Service.

The Synod was unique in that only one topic—collegiality, or the relationship between the pope and the bishops—was on the agenda. Yet, the event provoked news long before it took place because of the controversy and speculation preceding the actual meeting.

In second place, according to the Catholic editors in the U.S. and Canada, was the financial crisis in Catholic schools. Many stories in 1969 were concerned with mergers, closings, and state aid—considered "crucial to continued operations."

Voted No. 3 story was Bishop James P. Shannon's resignation as auxiliary of St. Paul and Minneapolis and his subsequent marriage.

The next seven top stories chosen by the editors were:

4: U.S. Bishops' fall meeting in Washington.

5: New Mass Order promulgated and U.S. Bishops' approval of the English translation for it.

6: Pope Paul VI's visit to World Council of Churches and International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

7: U.S. astronaut's moon landing (Apollo 11) and the Pope's comment on the event.

8: Continuation of anti-Catholic violence in Northern Ireland.

9: Pope Paul's *motu proprio* on the liturgical year and new universal Roman calendar. Some popular saints, like St. Christopher, were not included.

10: Vietnam Moratorium Peace demonstrations in Washington.

**Detroit Mayor Inaugurated in Ecumenical Rite**

Detroit — (NC) — An unusual ecumenical service was held in an inner-city Catholic church in conjunction with the inauguration ceremonies of Mayor Roman S. Gribbis of Detroit.

Leaders of major religious faiths took part in the (Jan. 6) service, which was described as the first of its kind for a mayor's inauguration in this city. The services were in St. Mary's Church.

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1970 CAPITOL HILL 1970  
**ROUND-UP**  
Answers to Welfare Questions

**Q. Is it true that Gov. Rockefeller has endorsed increased payments in welfare?**

A. He has endorsed the recommendation of the State Board of Social Welfare for an upgrade in public assistance payments to reflect the increased cost of living and also to establish a statewide level rather than the various levels now effective.

**Q. Isn't this an outrageously high grant?**

A. The proposed grant would give a family of four \$230 per month for everything except rent and heat. That's food, clothes, soap, entertainment, pencils, books, magazines, newspapers, toys, etc. If they used the entire grant for food alone that would work out to about 65 cents per meal per person.

**Why the increase? What's the necessity?**

A. The Board of Social Welfare notes that from May 1968 to May 1970 there'll be a 10 per cent increase in the cost of living. The upgrade is to maintain a minimum subsistence level.

**Q. Who gets this money?**

A. Families who for various reasons must rely on full or partial assistance to get them through the week.

**Q. You mean people get money just because they're poor?**

A. Right. The basic human dignity of the person is what's involved. No one should be forced to live below a certain level of existence just because he's a child or disabled or old or sick. Society has a responsibility to every member... not just the healthy, well adjusted ones.

**Q. What did the New York State Bishops say about this?**

A. They made several points in a pastoral released before Christmas. One point aimed at the legislative cut-backs in welfare assistance bulled through the 1969 session and signed by Gov. Rockefeller. "The decision to make the poor suffer the cost of a balanced budget seems

both unjust and insensitive."

**Q. What else did they say?**

A. They particularly noted the growing enigma: our affluent society has within its "very midst a shocking evidence of poverty." They said some 30 million poor are finding themselves the object of society's hate because they are poor. "What is most disturbing to us is that rather than address ourselves to the root causes of poverty, to direct our energies to a just and equitable distribution of the goods of creation, we tend to engage in invectives about the poor and the maligning of their moral character."

**Q. What about President Nixon's new welfare plan?**

A. Nixon's proposals for welfare reform first need widespread public scrutiny in public hearings across the nation before anything else is done.

**Q. Why such hearings?**

A. Because the proposals are so sweeping. They expect every mother whose youngest child is over 6 to go to work... an impossible proposal without thousands of day care centers to watch their children after school and before they return from work... such centers do not now exist. The people should be asked their views.

**Q. What is there to approve of in the Nixon proposals?**

A. Some obviously good parts of the proposal's include: provision for a national minimum income level aiming to alleviate imbalance between states; including the "working poor", families who do not earn enough to raise themselves above the poverty level, despite the fact the breadwinner has a full time job.

**Curb Abortions, Hospitals Asked**

Philadelphia — (NC) — The Philadelphia chancery office has called on Philadelphia area hospitals to curtail the "startling increase" in abortions.

Msgr. Terrence F. Monihan, chancellor, said that in the growing number of abortions in some area hospitals the "legal protection for the fetus is being ignored." He asked physicians to "live up to the highest ideals of their profession: to heal, to cure, to save life—not to destroy life."

The statement made no specific mention of any institution, but it was indicated that one hospital with a newly adopted liberalized abortion policy was a principal cause for issuing the statement.

Some local hospitals reportedly justify their position on the grounds that abortion should be accepted by society and that no one should be convicted for performing an abortion, the statement said.

"This is nothing less than

abortion on demand," the statement added. "The conscience of modern man is said to be tending more and more to decisions in favor of life and against violence. The growing practice of abortion—and especially abortion on demand—makes a mockery of this."

The statement said pro-abortionists "speak of a woman's right over her own body, overlooking the obvious fact that the fetus is destined to enjoy its own life independent of the mother."

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