

Catholic U. Reduces Ties with Vatican

Washington — (NC) — Catholic University here has announced major changes in by-laws which reduce Vatican ties and establish what Dr. Clarence C. Walton, university president, calls "a most unique and adaptive arrangement."

Catholic University of America was established in 1889 as a "pontifical university," accredited by the Holy See. The change, however, provides for only three "pontifical schools" in the university, out of a total of 12 — Philosophy, Theology and Canon Law — with the stipulation that "those courses, programs, and degrees having canonical effects shall be conducted according to norms and regulations promulgated by the Holy See."

In the past, the Vatican also had to approve the university president, but under the revised statutes, he is selected by the Board of Trustees after hearing the report of a committee which includes faculty representatives.

All cardinals who are heads of

dioceses in the United States were formerly members of the board of trustees. But the new by-laws provide that only five cardinals may serve on the board, utilizing a rotation system based on seniority if there are more than five cardinals desiring to serve. The board will be evenly divided between lay and clerical members.

Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, as archbishop of Washington, remains ex officio the university chancellor serving "as a liaison between the university and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as between the university and the Holy See," according to the new by-laws.

The by-laws reaffirm the historic role of the Academic Senate, existing at the university since its inception, giving it the authority to "adopt rules and regulations pertaining to its operations and to the academic operation of the university" but stipulating final approval by the president of its enactments. The Senate may submit its considerations to the Board of Trustees, if the president does not approve them.

Pope to Italy: Don't Change Divorce Law

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has pleaded with the government of Italy to avoid passage of a law permitting divorce, claiming that it would jeopardize the peace and honor of the nation.

Speaking at a general audience Feb. 11, the Pope focused on two occasions. The first was the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, and the second was the 41st anniversary of the Lateran Pacts, which established the State of Vatican City in 1929 and left the Pope its sovereign ruler.

At the same time a concordat, an agreement between the Holy See and the Italian government, was signed establishing Catholicism as the nation's religion and incorporating its religious and moral teachings — including the indissolubility of marriage — into the country's civil law.

A strong effort is being made to legalize divorce in Italy and the Italian bishops have gone on record opposing any such action. The Vatican maintains that recognition of divorce would automatically be a unilateral revision of an agreement which can only be revised by both parties.

At his audience, Pope Paul made this point again. Noting that the Holy See was already agreed to bilateral talks on possible revision of certain parts of the concordat that no longer apply to present circumstances, the Pope made it clear that these revisions did not go as far as legalizing divorce. He said:

"We sincerely hope and wholeheartedly wish that any step may be avoided which, by a unilateral decision, might violate what was solemnly established by common agreement."

"We are speaking in particular of the very substantial point of Christian marriage."

They're Really In the Same Party

Stevens Point, Wis. — (RNS) — Msgr. James P. Finucan, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church here, is a candidate for election to the city's school board. The Rev. Vern Holtan, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, is his campaign manager.

Said Mr. Holtan: "Msgr. Finucan is running not as a priest but as an interested citizen."

The 46-year-old priest, a former chancellor of the Diocese of La Crosse, came to Stevens Point in 1965. He has been active in ecumenical activities here and is interested in migrant education and in low-cost housing. He is chairman of the Stevens Point Housing Authority.



Delegate Welcomed to Nigeria

The new papal delegate to Central West Africa, Archbishop Amelio Poggi (front row, center), poses with Nigerian prelates during a reception welcoming him to Lagos. Identified are, front row, from left: Archbishop J. K. Aggey of Lagos, Archbishop Poggi and Bishop Anthony Sanusi of Ijebu-Ode in Nigeria's Western State. At left in the second row is Bishop Brian Usanga, secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria. (RNS)

Democrats Suffer Losses Among 3 Major Faiths

New York — (RNS) — Significant loss of support from among the three major religious groups, notably from among Catholics and Jews, has ended the democratic party's traditional role as the country's majority party, according to the Harris Poll.

Voters who consider themselves Democrats have slipped from 52 to 48 per cent of the electorate between 1968 and 1970. Republicans still comprise only 33 per cent, up 2 per cent from 1968.

However, the 19 per cent who consider themselves "independent" — an increase of 2 per cent from the 1968 figure — now make it impossible for a national Democratic victory along straight party lines.

Between 1968 and 1970, Catholic support for Democrats dropped from 57 to 53 per cent. Support for the Republican party also dropped — from 24 to 22 per cent — while identification as "independents" rose from 19 to 22 per cent.

During the same period, Jewish identification with the Democratic party dropped from 76 to 60 per cent, while allegiance to the Republicans increased from 5 to 16 per cent. Those considering themselves "inde-

pendents" also increased from 19 to 24 per cent.

Among Protestants, identification as a Democrat fell from 44 per cent in 1968 to 38 per cent in 1970, while those identifying with the Republican party rose from 40 to 44 per cent. Those describing themselves as "independents" increased from 16 to 18 per cent.

In his report, Louis Harris noted that most substantial Democratic slippage is occurring in such historic strongholds as blacks and Jews who live in major cities. There are distinct signs that the traditional base of the party can no longer be taken for granted, he said.

Party identification with Democrats dropped from 83 to 76 per cent among blacks during the past two years, according to the poll. Identification of blacks with the Republican party rose from 7 to 17 per cent; while that as "independents" dropped from 10 to 7 per cent.

Among American whites, identification with Democrats fell from 48 to 43 per cent. Whites who considered themselves Republicans increased from 34 to 36 per cent; and the "independents" rose from 18 to 21 per cent.

N.Y. City Board Divided on Blaine Repeal

New York — (RNS) — The New York City Board of Education, by a vote of 3 to 2, has indicated its opposition to repeal of the state's ban on financial aid to church-related schools.

"At stake is the survival of the public school as an institution for the education of all the children," the three school board members in the majority declared.

Opposing repeal of Article XI, Section 3 of the state constitution, the so-called "Blaine Amendment," were Joseph Monserrat, president; Murray Bergstrom, vice president; and Isaiah Robinson Jr., dissenting were Dr. Mary E. Meade and Dr. Seymour Lachman.

The majority claimed that the real issue is whether the state will divert funds to the private schools which could have been used to support public education.

"If this is done," they said, "the result will be disaster to the future of the public school system. Added impetus will be given to the flight of the middle class from the public schools. The public schools will then become schools for those who cannot afford to go or who will not be accepted elsewhere."

Lindsay on Aid: Yes and No

New York — (RNS) — Mayor John V. Lindsay has announced his opposition to repeal of the New York State Constitution's section which prohibits government aid to church-related schools.

However, the mayor indicated that his stand against repeal of the so-called "Blaine Amendment" did not mean that he opposes financial assistance to parochial institutions.

"We must find ways," he said, "within the framework of the Blaine Amendment, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and recent court decisions, to assist the private school system in its secular functions."

ECUMENICAL EVENT

Orlando, Fla. — (NC) — Catholic Bishop William D. Borders of Orlando, marched in the procession and attended the consecration of Episcopal Bishop William Hopkins Folwell of Central Florida in the cathedral church of St. Luke here. Bishop Borders is the first Catholic bishop to attend the consecration of an Episcopal bishop in this area. Three Catholic pastors also were present.

84 Theologians Seek Dialogue on Celibacy

Bonn — (RNS) — Eighty-four Roman Catholic professors of theology — including Father Hans Kueg — issued a manifesto urging the bishops of Austria, West Germany and Switzerland to undertake a "business-like dialogue" with the Vatican on the question of priestly celibacy.

Pointing out that the Church faced not only in Holland but also in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, "a really difficult situation which could lead to schism," the theologians declared, "We cannot and will not see such a development, without acting."

The manifesto, drafted by liberal theologians at Tuebingen University in West Germany, insisted that Church unity was "much more important" than the "disciplinary law" of celibacy, and appealed to their bishops to express solidarity with the Dutch bishops who have been asking for a dialogue with Rome on the celibacy issue.

"We call on our bishops," the document said, "not to leave the Dutch bishops, as well as the bishops and churchmen in the entire world who face similar difficulties, alone in their cares. The situation is also much more threatening in its current sharpness beyond Holland than can be imagined at first glance."

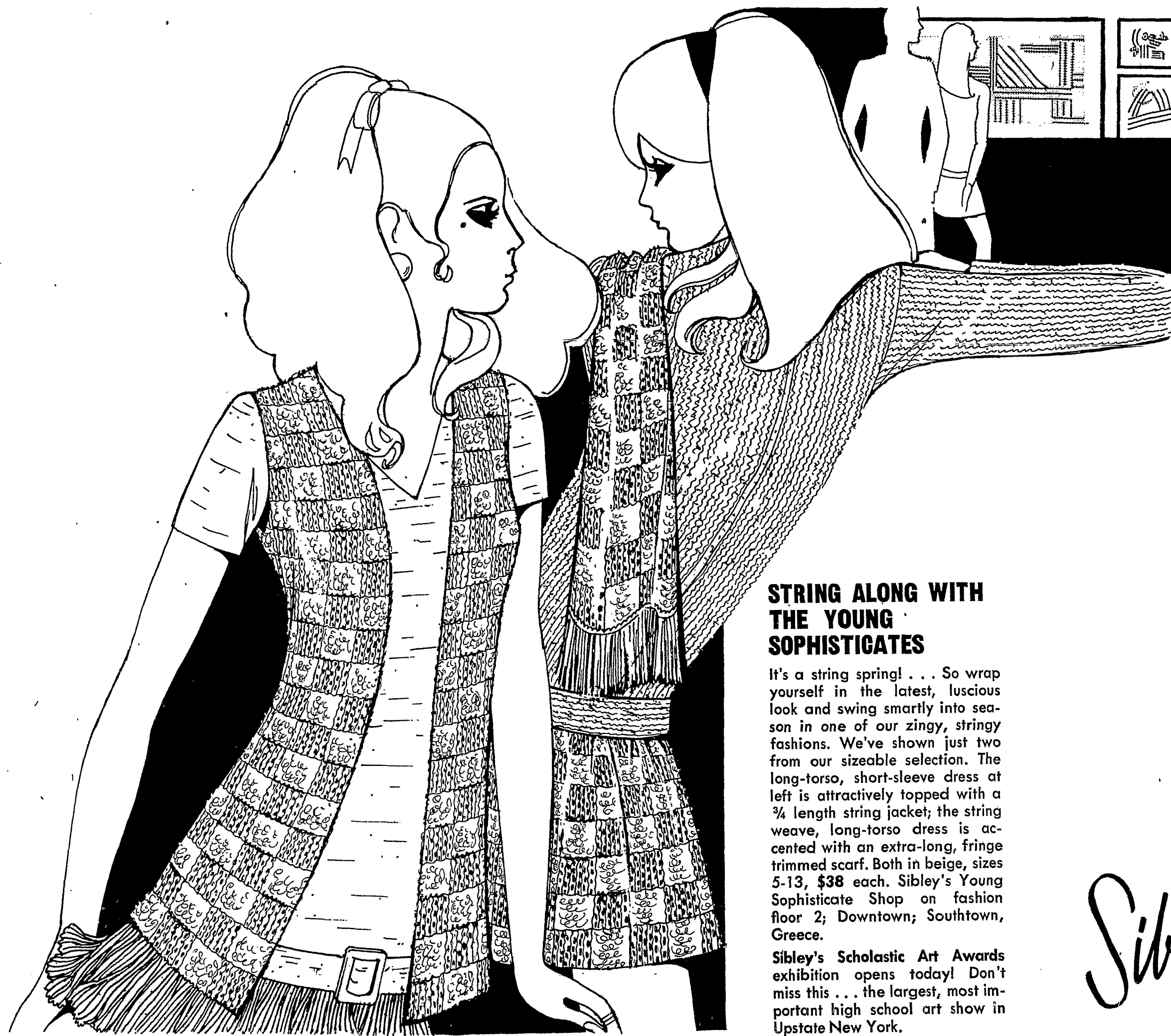
"We call on our bishops to intercede in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council for the long overdue and frequently demanded business-like dialogue in Rome. There is no reasonable ground for refusing a clarifying dialogue."

Meanwhile, the bishops in the most populous West German state, North Rhine-Westphalia, issued a statement supporting Pope Paul's stand upholding celibacy in the Latin Rite, and recalled that in December West German bishops had likewise supported the law of mandatory celibacy.

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