



John Wayne 'Adopts' a Family

Oscar winner, John Wayne, gets acquainted with two of the 1,040 Mexican orphans he's "adopted" in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where he's making a movie. The orphanage is run by Father William Wasson (right). Wayne arranged for a showing of "True Grit" in Mexico City to benefit the kids. (RNS)

New Church 'Constitution' Draws Canonists' Ire

New York — (NC) — High-ranking canon lawyers and scholars, among them Swiss theologian Father Hans Kung, warned here April 5 that a secret draft document outlining a new general constitutional law for the Catholic Church was monarchical, rigid and likely to dash renewal hopes raised by the Vatican Council.

The document — a 123-page booklet of 94 proposed canons which would make up a "Lex Ecclesiae Fundamentalis" (Fundamental Law of the Church) — could bring about a crisis "that would make the birth control crisis look like a Good Humor man," said Father William Bassett, associate professor of canon law at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and chairman of research and development for the Canon Law Society of America.

Father Kung added, "We have a clear knowledge of this top secret document. It is clearly conceived in an absolutist spirit, it has been sent to a very few persons, but it could be fundamental law for 500 million Catholics. We must discuss this."

The draft document was compiled by a sub-commission of canon lawyers serving in a consultative capacity to the all-cardinal Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law, which meets next October. It carries the date of Sept. 20, 1969, in its current version.

Its existence was disclosed by Father Bassett, and others

among 38 scholars — historians, theologians, and sociologists as well as canon lawyers. — at the close of a three-day "Symposium on Co-responsibility in the Church," sponsored by the 1,350-member Canon Law Society in cooperation with Fordham University at Cathedral College, Douglaston, Long Island.

Father Bassett told the news conference, held at the end of the symposium, that he was speaking on behalf of the canon lawyers taking part. He and Father Kung were chosen by the symposium participants to give concluding remarks for the press.

The Catholic University professor said that, despite requests, the society has been denied a major role in the present reform being undertaken by the five-year-old papal commission, whose chairman is Pericle Cardinal Felice.

Those who are "doing the work" of changing the code, he asserted, are "trying to roll back to a pre-Vatican II understanding and approach and bring the whole forward progress of the Church to a stop."

"If a new Code of canon law were to come out which would effectively stop any structural change, it would precipitate a crisis in the Church of major proportions," said Father Bassett. "Many persons would thus be frustrated and the hopes of the Council would ultimately be destroyed."

Both Father Bassett and Father Kung said the proposed

changes were dominated by an authoritarian approach. The document quotes from Vatican II documents to bolster the specifics of papal power endorsed by the First Vatican Council of 1870. It presupposes no basic change in church structures, they said.

Its proposals are specific regarding the Pope but vague on the rights of individual churchmen and co-responsibility, they charged.

"It is a confusion of dogma and law, a dogmatizing of the law and a legalizing of dogma," Father Kung said.

The Rev. Dr. Earl Kent Brown of Boston University, one of six Protestant theologians attending the symposium, said the proposed canons would deal "a real blow to the ecumenical movement."

"This type of reaffirmation of a triumphalist position would make more intense what is already some disillusionment among Protestants about Vatican II hopes," he said.

(In Rome, a staff member of the canon law commission said copies of the fundamental law draft have been sent to the world's bishops, with the "sub secreto" — under secrecy — label. He said no arrangements for making it public have been decided because there was uncertainty whether to issue the document after a meeting of the Synod of Bishops, on the Pope's authority alone, or by the commission and the Pope together with all the bishops.)

Brazil Leaders Now Face Open Rebuke by Pope

By ROBERT HOLTON
(Special to the Courier-Journal)

Vatican City — Government officials in Brazil are under a thinly veiled papal denouncement for their oppression and torture of Roman Catholics there.

Pope Paul broke his silence on the reports of widespread religious and other terrorism in the Latin American country in a homily during Holy Week.

Although the pontiff diplomatically avoided use of the name Brazil at a general audience, it was clear that his remarks were aimed at those in power in Brazil.

"We must deplore those cases of police torture of which there has been so much talk and with regard to which we ourselves have rightfully intervened, not without positive expectations," he said, adding:

"And we can only hope, for the sake of the honor of nations that are dear to us, for a denial through deeds."

The papal reference to earlier Vatican interventions was to a letter sent last January to Church leaders and made public in which Maurice Cardinal Roy, head of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, de-

plored the reported tortures in Brazil.

At the time it was noted that Pope Paul had rightfully used his secretariat to make known his feelings without overstepping diplomatic boundaries as a head of state.

However, it was no secret at the time that many of those who had petitioned the Pope to speak out personally against the tortures listed in a so-called, multi-paged "black book of torture" were not completely satisfied with the rebuke by Cardinal Roy.

The commission felt it had been made good use of and was satisfied to sit back and wait in the hope that the Roy Letter would bring about an end to the tortures.

The end did not come however, and appeals for a papal statement kept pouring into the Vatican.

The Pope answered the appeals—at least partially—with his address. But it might end on such a diplomatic note.

If the tortures continue for any greater length of time, the Pope almost certainly will be forced to address himself publicly again to the issue, this time in even stronger terms and with complete identification of the country and those guilty of the crimes.

Senator's Wife Arrested At Pentagon 'Peace Mass'

Washington — (NC) — A federal magistrate found the wife of a U.S. senator and seven other defendants including the head of the Papal Volunteers for Latin America (PAVLA) guilty of violating federal regulations by holding a peace Mass in a concourse of the Pentagon.

U.S. Magistrate Stanley King of Alexandria, Va., ruled the wife of Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.), PAVLA head Thomas Quigley, and their codefendants broke a regulation prohibiting disorderly conduct in federal buildings. He said the singing and hand clapping that accompanied the Mass created "loud and unusual noise."

(Quigley is a native of Geneva. Also convicted were Bishop and Mrs. Daniel Corrigan, Episcopalians, of Rochester.)

No date has been set for sentencing. All are free on \$25 bond pending appeal. Maximum punishment for the offense is a \$50 fine and 30 days in jail.

Lawrence E. Freedman, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, said: "We'll appeal it all the way, up to the Supreme Court if necessary."

Emphasizing that the case introduced an important question of civil rights he continued: "These are responsible people . . . who went about exercising their rights under the first amendment in a peaceful, dignified manner."

The magistrate's opinion skirted the first amendment issue in its admission that the defendants had been peaceful and orderly. But King maintained that the defendants "tended to impede and disrupt government employes in the performance of their duties" by holding the Mass in the Pentagon.

Also found guilty were Episcopal Bishop Edward Crowther, formerly of Kimberley, South Africa; Father William Wendt, rector of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church here; and Nathaniel W. Pierce and Thomas F. Pike of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

Maurice Stokes Goes Home to St. Francis

By BILL RING
NC News Service

Loretto, Pa.—Maurice Stokes, a legend in prayer and perseverance, came back to stay at little St. Francis College, Loretto, Pa., where he gained All-American basketball fame and developed a love for the Catholic faith.

The one-time "Mighty Mo" was interred on the college grounds, his resting place to serve as a memorial to future St. Francis students. Father Vincent R. Negherbon, TOR, college president, officiated at a requiem Mass for Stokes in the college chapel and at the burial on April 9.

Stokes, 36, died April 6 of a

heart attack in Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, where he had battled against paralyzing encephalitis for 12 years.

He first came to St. Francis College in the early 1950s from his native Pittsburgh. He grew into a 6-foot-7, 240-pound center, became the college's first All-American in 1955 and plunged into a promising pro basketball career with the Rochester (N.Y.) Royals, becoming the NBA rookie of the year.

(A former teammate of Stokes with the NBA Royals, Bobby Wanzer, termed him a "personable, easy-going, terrific guy.")

"He set an NBA record of 1256 rebounds in one season

here in Rochester," recalls Wanzer, now head basketball coach at St. John Fisher.

"There's not much more I can say except that he was a very bright guy and very popular among all the players in the league.)

When the team moved to Cincinnati, he had become a close friend of another Royal star, Jack Twyman, now a successful Cincinnati insurance executive and sportscaster.

The world just about came to an end for the mighty star on March 15, 1958. The Royals had lost a game to Detroit in an NBA playoff. Stokes had been knocked cold in the game, but revived and continued play. On

the plane flight back to Cincinnati, he collapsed.

Twyman, who often had discussed Catholicism with Stokes and had heard him say he wanted to become a Catholic, baptized the unconscious star on the plane. At the hospital in Cincinnati, Stokes received the last rites of the Church.

Then began an uphill battle for Stokes. Twyman became Stokes' legal guardian, although Stokes' mother, a sister and brother survive him. Twyman arranged benefit basketball games among pros and in other sports to defray the enormous medical and hospital expenses in Stokes' battle to regain the conscious world.

His recovery was slow, tedious. But in late 1963, Stokes had recovered sufficiently to take instruction in the Catholic faith from the hospital chaplain. On Jan. 6, 1964, Stokes in a wheel chair attended his first Mass as a Catholic, received Holy Communion—with Twyman at his side.

Through use of whirlpool baths, physical therapy devices, isometric exercises, Stokes was able to manipulate an electric typewriter. One of the first messages he wrote now is a fitting epitaph for the courageous athlete. It is:

"I always tried to bear down in competition, but I never had to put out as hard as I do in this exercising."