



Graduation Day — 1970

Symbols of peace and protest adorn the caps and gowns of several graduates at the University of Massachusetts commencement exercises. (RNS)

The Bishop Takes an Ad

'Anyone Who Deliberately Stunts
The Mind of a Child of God
. . . Parts Company with Christ'

Birmingham, Ala. — (NC) — Bishop Joseph G. Vath and 45 priests and 110 nuns of the Birmingham diocese joined here in a criticism of federal and state failure to provide equal educational opportunity for blacks. They published their condemnation of segregation as an ad in the Birmingham Post-Herald.

Citing the time elapsed from the passage of the Declaration of Independence, the statement concluded that "a most important right of liberty is still deliberately denied to many of our black citizens. We refer to the right of equal educational opportunity."

The statement continued: "Education — who can dispute the fact? — is a condition of full citizenship in America. And yet, today in America, we see state governments . . . leading a concerted effort precisely to deny equal education (and thus

full citizenship) to many of our fellow citizens.

"The state governments, in league with self-styled 'concerned parents,' have stated that their concern is purely for quality education. But we are forced to view with suspicion this concern for 'quality education' when we look at certain facts."

"In 1954," the bishop's statement added, "the Supreme Court officially recognized that 'separate but equal' schools are inherently unequal. This remains an unacceptable decision in some quarters. It is unacceptable to some white parents because they unreasonably fear desegregated education.

"But what these parents should truly fear are the terrible fruits of segregated education: inferior education for black children and a sense of race supremacy on the part of white children . . . promoted by the Spirit, we solemnly teach that

any deliberate act to perpetuate ignorance and racism is a grievous wrong to all of God's people.

"Anyone who deliberately stunts the mind of a child of God, or anyone who deliberately infects one of God's children with the cancer of racism, parts company with Christ."

To a selection of the catchwords that are supposed to convey a spirit of moderation — "the time isn't right . . . our people aren't ready"—the statement replied "Sadly, when they say that 'we must go slow,' they mean that black people must go slow . . . and when they say 'our people,' they always mean white people, never black people . . .

"But when all the arguments are in, the only argument which can overcome legal niceties and clever sophisms and mindless slogans is the compelling and incontrovertible fact that we are all brothers in Jesus Christ."

Religious Units Aid Quake Victims

New York — (RNS) — Supplies for victims of the devastating earthquakes that racked Peru recently were dispatched here by Catholic Relief Services while its Protestant counterpart, Church World Service, announced it was readying materials and fund transfers for the stricken area.

Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom, executive director of the U.S. Catholic overseas aid agency, said that 16,000 pounds of clothes, blankets, tents, antibiotics and other medicines were being airlifted to Peru.

In addition to the shipment, valued at \$35,000, Bishop Swannstrom said, \$10,000 in cash is being made available to the CRS program director in Peru, Antonio Salazar of Selma, Calif., for the local purchase of other needed relief supplies.

Salazar reported from Lima that 200 tons of the CRS food stocks in Peru were being sent to northern Peru where it was reported that 30,000 persons perished and hundreds of thousands are homeless.

A spokesman for Church World Service, overseas relief arm of the National Council of

Churches in New York, said that an additional staff person is on the way to the agency's Lima office and that \$6,000 in funds have been transferred for local use there.

The CWS spokesman said the agency expects to dispatch air shipments of relief supplies within the next few days. He said the agency is awaiting information from Lima on the needs of the stricken area.

He also noted that the World Council of Churches in Geneva is expected to launch a plea for funds for Peruvian relief.

The earthquakes, which roughly covered the northern half of Peru, reaching almost to the capital at Lima, reportedly wiped several towns and villages off the map. Valleys were flooded by ruptured dams and roads were buried under huge landslides.

The early death toll estimates of 30,000 were based only on population figures for the area which was surveyed by air.

Hardest hit were Chimbote, a coastal city near the epicenter of the earthquake, Huaras, a resort town inland, and Trujillo.



Pair of Prelates

John Cardinal Wright, right, embraces Archbishop Michael Gonzi of Malta during International Congress on Distribution of Priests in Valletta, Malta. (RNS)

New Assignment System Urged by Cardinal Wright

Valletta, Malta — (RNS) — A new structure, or "clearing house," for world dissemination of Catholic priests was envisioned here by American-born John Cardinal Wright who urged Catholic bishops to instill a missionary spirit in their priests "to a far greater degree" than ever before.

Interviewed during the International Congress on the Distribution of Priests in the World, the prelate remarked on a variety of aspects impinging on the future of the priesthood — from problems in the communications media to "responsibilities" of bishops to student dissent and protest.

The cardinal, who is the prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy and thus the leading figure in Church-priest relations, was host to more than a score of bishops and several hundred priests and laymen at the international meeting.

"There are any number of bishops who are very conscious

of their authority but are not too conscious of their responsibilities," he asserted. "The congress will have achieved one of its aims if it has reminded each bishop of his responsibility to parts of the world way beyond the boundaries of the land covered by his jurisdiction."

The cardinal observed: "It follows that it is the duty of bishops, as a result of the new emphasis, to include in their seminary training missionary spirit to a far greater degree than has ever been the case before."

Reviewing the congress, Cardinal Wright saw three potential results: a dramatization of the problem of clergy dissemination, a new clearing house to make known the bishops' needs, and the realization of where vocations come from.

Cardinal Wright said that up to now there has not been an "organized effort" to deal with clergy distribution, even though, for the past 15 years, there has been considerable "transplanting of priests" around the world.



Airborne Chaplain

Chaplain (Capt.) Douglas Pond is attached to the Army's 4th Student Battalion Training School Brigade at Ft. Benning, Ga. Here he gives words of encouragement to paratroopers boarding C119 for practice jump. (RNS)