

Disciplined Priests Hear from Vatican

Chicago—(NC)—The National Federation of Priests' Councils (NFPC) revealed at its regular spring board meeting here that further communication has been received from Rome on the case of 19 Washington priests disciplined for their stand on birth control.

Father Frank Bonnike, NFPC president, told NC News that a letter from Cardinal Jean Villot, papal secretary of state, said the Pope preferred "conciliation" in the dispute. Correspondence is continuing, the NFPC president said.

Library Holiday

The Rundell Library and all 12 city branches will take a long weekend for Independence Day.

The libraries, which will be closed Saturdays until Sept. 5, will take Friday off, July 3.

KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FIELD MASS

The 53rd annual Military Field Mass of the Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliary will be offered at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Sunday, June 28, at 10 a.m.

Bishop James E. Kearney will celebrate a Latin Mass. The public is invited.

The 19 priests were among a group of 39 disciplined by Cardinal O'Boyle for dissenting from the cardinal's interpretation of the Pope's 1968 birth control encyclical, Humanae Vitae. Cardinal O'Boyle relieved 39 priests of various priestly faculties such as hearing confession or preaching. He said the dispute was not subject to mediation or arbitration because it involved doctrine.

After jurisdictional questions blocked their case in two Church courts, 19 volunteers from the original group sent a direct appeal to Rome. The NFPC then was asked to intercede for the priests.

At its spring meeting, the 28-member NFPC board estab-

lished procedures to be followed before the group would become involved in future due process cases. Father Bonnike said the NFPC had received five requests for intervention since it had taken up the Washington priests' case. He said the board was afraid it would be "running to try to put out every fire in the Church."

In the future, the board held that individual priests whose dioceses do not have formal due

process procedures, or those who are unhappy with the outcome of arbitration on a diocesan level, should first present their case to their local priests' council.

The next step would be for the local council to present the case to NFPC province representatives. Only if these prelim-

inary steps should prove ineffectual would a case be appealed to the NFPC as a whole.

The board also called for the establishment of "administrative tribunals," appeal courts which could be used by all Church employees and members, both clerical and lay, who have grievances.

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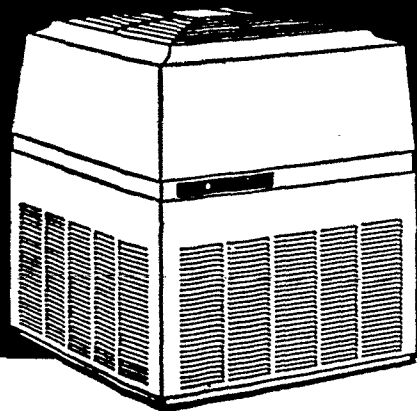
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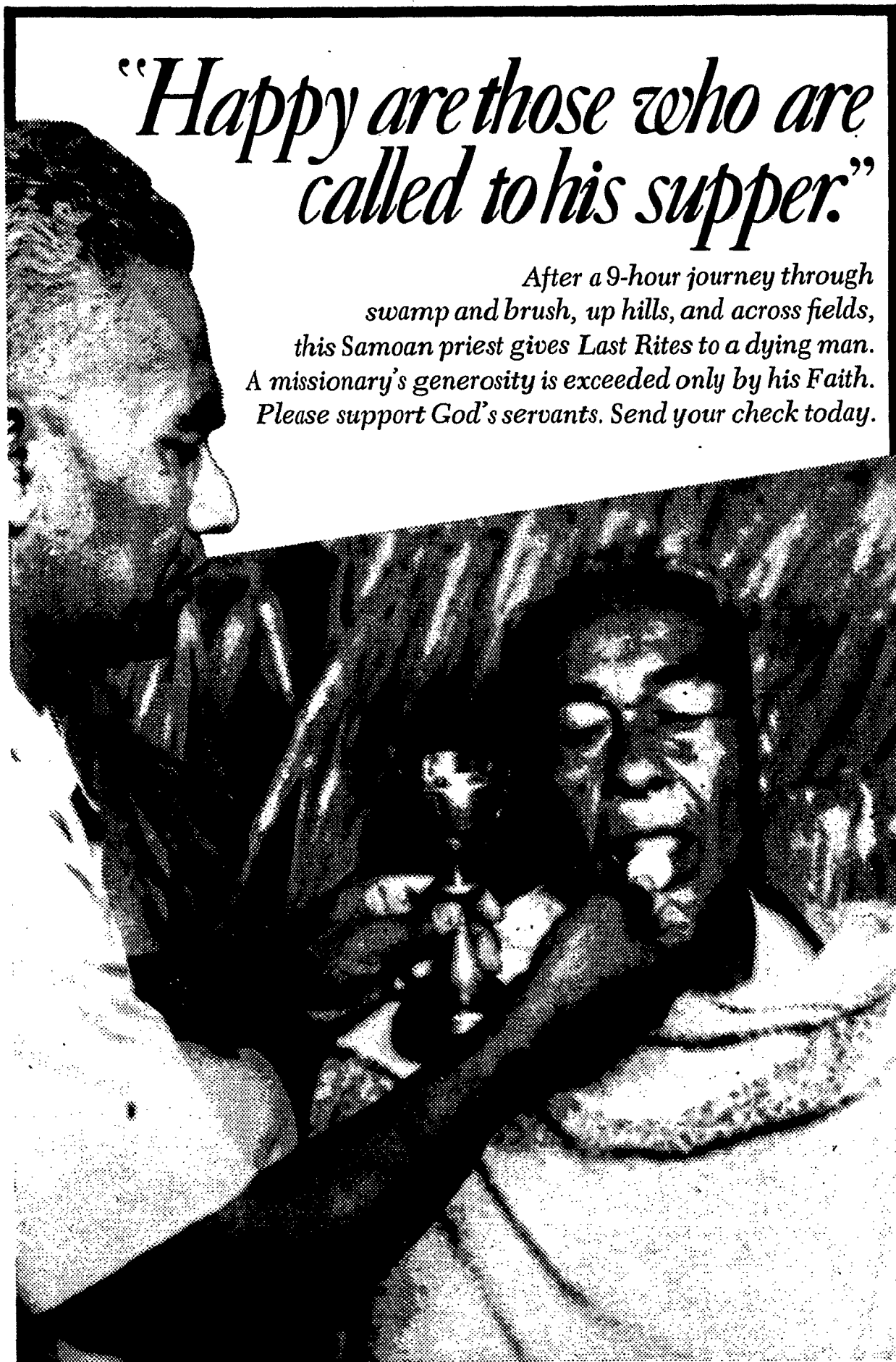
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Page 17-A